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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-207 *26 October 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Commentator Views Results of CIS Summit

MM2510123594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Commentary by Aleksandr Krasulin under "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Neighbors, Let's Congratulate Ourselves. Harmonization of Reforms and Legislation Essential for the Development of the CIS Countries' Integration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The financial storm which hit Russia on the eve of the CIS summit did not, contrary to the forebodings of certain political experts, adversely affect the process of integration of the independent states. The heads of state completed the whole of the meeting's agenda and unanimously signed 10 main documents and two protocol documents, of which the Memorandum on the Basic Areas of Integrative Development of the CIS and also the creation of the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] and the Payments and Customs Unions are the most important. Moreover, measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities were agreed. "That is precisiely the sphere which affects the interests of our compatriots in the CIS republics," [Russian Federation Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev commented.

Both the statements by the leaders of the Commonwealth countries on the eve of the summit and the actual progress of the summit showed that everyone or almost everyone in the republics has already understood the vital need to restore the links destroyed since the collapse of the CIS. And this is not surprising. After all, the situation in the economy in all the Commonwealth countries without exception is quite lamentable, if not critical. Moreover, their future depends to a huge extent on Russia. Their total debt to the Russian Federation just in terms of mutual settlements in 1992-1993 came to more than $5 billion. So Viktor Chernomyrdin, who, in his capacity as chairman of the Council of Heads of Government, delivered a report to the presidents in closed session based on the need to set up the IEC as a coordinating body with executive [rasporyaditelnyy] powers, did not, as was noted, make special efforts to persuade the Commonwealth countries' leaders. He diplomatically restricted himself to general statements.

President Boris Yeltsin summed up the results of the summit's work. "The discussion as to whether CIS integration is necessary is over," he said at the final news conference in the Kremlin. The Commonwealth will embark on the European Union route because all its peoples have an interest in integration. "And if we start to implement the agreements quickly and fulfill them strictly, our peoples will be aware of this in the very near future." At the same time the Russian Federation president admitted that there were discrepant views expressed on the IEC during the discussion.

Here it is necessary to make clear that the agreement on the IEC is merely an agrement in principle and that the CIS countries have not assumed any specific commitments. Each country will devolve powers to that so-called supranational body according to their own interpretation of the agreement and their own national interests. And these powers will most likely be far from equivalent.

Notably, as sources close to the Ukrainian delegation noted, the agreement on the IEC will be implemented "in accordance with the country's national legislation," while "conditions have not yet emerged" for the implementation of the provisions concerning the payments union. Ukraine also made comments regarding the long-term plan for integrative development.

Turkmenia also maintained a dissenting opinion, but did not refrain from discussion.

However, the IEC's proponents consider that the different attitudes of the different states toward this coordinating and executive body in the Commonwealth countries are perfectly natural. After all, they find themselves at different levels of economic development and the implementation of reforms. At the initial stage, as [Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister] Aleksandr Shokhin observed, some countries could be in the IEC simply with the status of observers, and only later devolve some powers to the committee. "It is necessary to equalize the progress of reforms in different states, otherwise it will be difficult for us to coexist at all," Boris Yeltsin stressed. "What's more, national legislations have to be harmonized too."

The sides unanimously agreed to site the IEC's headquarters in Moscow. On this issue common sense clearly triumphed over national pride, as only the Russian capital really possesses the requisite trained, skilled cadres.

The summit participants took note of Kazakhstani President Nursulatan Nazarbayev's initiative on the Eurasian Union. "The idea is a good one but it is premature," noted Boris Yeltsin, expressing the common opinion of participants in the meeting. "The peoples are not ready today to merge into such a union."

The question of prolonging the mandate of Commonwealth peacemaking forces in Tajikistan was in effect the sole question on which the heads of state were unanimous. Moreover, the decision was made to increase the powers of the forces' commander, Valeriy Patrikeyev, "in order that he may act more boldly in assisting the legitimate government and president of Tajikistan." If Boris Yeltsin's latter remark is taken literally, it means that the peacemaking forces in Tajikistan will fight the increasingly strong Tajik opposition.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Oct

LD2610075194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 26 Oct 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 26 Oct (TASS)—The newspaper ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI writes that the next political week will focus on problems of relationship between the State Duma and the Russian government. On October 27, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is expected to submit to lawmakers a draft federal budget for 1995. "Chenomyrdin's report is directly connected with a vote of confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers which was put on the agenda of a plenary session of the Duma," ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI said. The newspaper went on to say that the approximate number of votes for and against on the eve of the vote in the State Duma shows that the situation has come to a deadlock.

A report from the city of Novgorod published by the TRUD daily quoted the leader of the party "Russia's democratic choice" Yegor Gaydar who appeared on local television as saying that "Yeltsin is a good politician, but he makes mistakes." In Gaydar's opinion, this often happens because the president's staff has been excessively restricting information which comes to the president, which leads to inadequate assessment of the situation by the president.

The IZVESTIYA daily gives details of a major ecological catastrophe caused by a damaged oil pipeline in the Republic of Komi not far away from the town of Usinsk 300 kilometers off the Arctic Ocean. The accident occurred on August 17, while reports about it came only on September 13. According to preliminary estimates, the amount of oil which leaked from the pipeline reached 300,000 tons. The Ardalin deposit situated not far from Usinsk is being developed jointly with the U.S. Konako company. It was Americans who had raised the alarm about the ecological situation in the region, and a proposal came on behalf of the U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore, offering ecological assistance. Only after that a government commission was formed which left for Usinsk on october 25," IZVESTIYA said.

The newspaper's observer, Leonid Nikitinskiy, comments on the situation which unfolded as a result of a third consecutive attempt made by the Federation Council to endorse Aleksey Ilyushenko to the post of the Russian prosecutor general, which ended in failure. The observer says that this does not only mean that Russia will be left without a prosecutor general for some time. "At the same time, the objectivity of resolutions adopted by the acting Prosecutor General Ilyushenko, who has been in this post for eight months, has been called into question, in particular, on problems of dismissal and appointment of new deputy prosecutors general, the Moscow prosecutor and some other problems," the observer said.

The newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes that Ilyushenko will never be endorsed to the post of Russia's prosecutor general. "At least, while the now parliament and the now president are in office" the newspaper said. According to the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, "there is a hypothesis that Ilyushenko will remain acting prosecutor general, which allegedly suits the president himself: to see a man who is fully dependent on him in the seat of the prosecutor general."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article by Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray devoted to problems of the Kaliningrad region. In his opinion, " exaggerated concern expressed by Western states about measures taken by Russia on the territory of its subject is, at least inappropriate."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA daily in an article entitled "protect the army and society from new turmoils" publishes letters written by servicemen, workers of culture and representatives from business circles, who consider that it is immoral to take advantage of the tragic death of Dmitriy Kholodov, journalist of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, for the sake of political speculations and building up tension in society.

The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA writes that following an appeal made by the federation of independent trade unions rallies and marches will be held in Russian cities on October 27. Participants will voice demands to return the money honestly earned by the people, pensions and scholarships, which were illegally suspended, to the population.

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Kozyrev Flies To Jordan To Attend Peace Ceremony

LD2610050294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0415 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's minister of foreign affairs, left for the Jordanian city of al-'Aqabah this morning where he will take part in the ceremony of signing the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Russia and the United States are co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, and the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian document is regarded as a major landmark in the process of regulating the situation in the region.

It was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the eve of the trip by Grigoriy Karasin, tdirector of the Department of Information and the Press of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that it is not to be ruled out that Andrey Kozyrev will have a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is also arriving for the ceremony to sign the agreement. During the meeting, according to Karasin, issues relating to bilateral cooperation between Russia and the United States, in particular those relating to a Middle East settlement, may be discussed.

Arrives for Treaty Signing

LD2610105894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1022 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in al-'Aqabah after a short visit to Egypt. The ceremony of signing the Jordan-Israel peace treaty will be held today near this Jordanian city on the border with Israel and Egypt. King Husayn of Jordan met the head of the U.S. Administration at al-'Aqabah Airport.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived there at about the same time. As a representative of a state that, together with the United States, cochairs the Arab-Israeli talks on the Middle East settlement, he will also take part in today's ceremony.

Hails Jordan-Israel Peace Accord

LD2610114094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] al-'Aqaba (on the Jordan-Israel border), 26 Oct—We have arrived here to attend the signing ceremony for the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today. We regard this event as a historic step, a substantial contribution to the common efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just Arab-Israeli peace. Russia, as a co- sponsor of the Near East settlement process begun in Madrid and a country that has its own direct and weighty interests in this region, has given practical assistance to the achievement of the Jordanian-Israeli accords. We also intend to promote their implementation.

I congratulate the Jordanian and Israeli peoples on this important event, which draws a line under decades of confrontation and suffering. I sincerely wish them the earliest possible achievement of a new quality of life, political dialogue, and fruitful cooperation in various spheres.

I intend to pass on to His Majesty King Husayn a personal message from President Boris Yeltsin and to discuss with the Jordanian leadership topical international problems and ways of further strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation, the minister said. I express thanks for the cordial and warm welcome given us on ancient Jordanian soil.

Spokesman on Kozyrev Agenda

LD2510131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1247 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—We do not rule out the possibility of Andrey Kozyrev's meeting with Bill Clinton during the Russian foreign minister's one-day visit to Jordan. This statement was made at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, who was answering a question from an ITAR- TASS correspondent. He noted that in view of Andrey Kozyrev's busy working schedule in al-'Aqaba, where the ceremony of signing the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is to take place, there is "as yet no" schedule for his visit there.

According to the diplomat, Moscow regards the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian treaty as a major milestone in the Middle East peace process started three years ago and jointly sponsored by Russia and the United States. We are convinced, G. Karasin stressed, that the document is to become a step toward comprehensive peace in the region and that it is to be followed by similarly significant steps in Israel's relations with Syria and Lebanon.

The spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said that Russia will continue actively to work toward reaching comprehensive and stable peace in the Middle East as soon as possible.

Kozyrev To Cancel Tour

LD2510183094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is going to call off his planned five-day Middle East tour to attend a parliament session which will take a vote of confidence in the government, a senior Russian diplomat said.

"Early on Wednesday morning Kozyrev will be leaving for the Middle East to take part in the ceremony of signing the Jordanian- Israeli peace agreement in al-'Aqaba (a town on the two countries' border). Late at night on the same day he plans to come back to Moscow because on Thursday the State Duma (the lower parliament house) is going to take a vote of confidence in the government," the diplomat told Interfax.

Kozyrev, who has to be present at the session of the Duma being one of its members (he was elected in the Murmansk Region), originally planned to visit, in addition to al-'Aqaba, the capitals of Israel, Jordan and Syria, as well as Casablanca, Morocco, where an international economic conference for the Middle East and North Africa opens on October 30.

"There's no complete clarity so far, but most likely the foreign minister's Middle East trip will be split up into two parts," the diplomat said, hesitating to give any approximate dates for the second part. "We just assume that all the planned contacts in the Middle East must take place to carry out a relevant directive by President Boris Yeltsin," he said.

Iraqi Envoy on Kuwaiti Border Issue

LD2510112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—"We in Iraq are very satisfied with the return of our relationship to the level existing before the crisis in the area of the Persian Gulf four years ago," Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah, Iraqi ambassador to the Russian Federation, said. He was speaking on Monday to leaders of the Foreign Policy Association of the Russian Federation, former high-ranking diplomats of the Soviet period, and journalists. He expressed Baghdad's viewpoint on recent developments of the situation in the region.

"The Iraqi leadership and the people of Iraq highly appreciate the efforts of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and members of his department to have economic sanctions lifted from Iraq, which has fulfilled all the resolutions of the UN Security Council," the ambassador said.

The Russian leadership, in the words of Hasan Jum'ah, "has made the right steps toward correcting the evolved situation, and toward overcoming the policy of double standards which the great powers would like to pursue in international relations. Only Russia, as a great power having special interests in the region, is capable of fulfilling this role, which is highly assessed by the whole world."

As we know, in the UN Security Council it is thought that Baghdad is only selectively fulfilling the requirements of the world community, and is still not following Resolution No. 833, obliging Iraq to recognize the border with Kuwait that was recently demarcated by UN experts. The ambassador, in answer to a question, let it be understood that Iraq's readiness to recognize Kuwait, as contained in the well-known Iraqi-Russian statement on the results of Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Baghdad, is tantamount to such a recognition.

Commenting on the visit, the Iraqi diplomat described it as "very important and successful," because it was able to lift the growth of tension in the region. At the request of Moscow and other friendly capitals, he said, Iraq had pulled back its troops from the border, and the United States had not been able to resort to its usual forcible methods. The level of tension had been very high, and not only Iraq, but other countries of the region were grateful to Russia. Moreover, in the assessment of Hasan Jum'ah, the visit had shown that Russia, on an international level, "is transcending the bounds of outside pressure."

Diplomats speaking at the meeting assessed with guarded optimism the trend of Russian diplomats to understand the national interests of a country which has of late been featuring more and more in their activity.

Gorbachev Assesses U.S. Policy Toward Iraq

BR2110151094 Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 21 Oct 94 pp 1-2

[Article by former President Mikhail Gorbachev: "My Idea for Stopping Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—The latest adventure attempted by Saddam Husayn on the border with Kuwait has renewed memories and political assessments of the events three and a half years ago that led to the Gulf War. Some people think that this latest episode of tension and provocation could have been averted—like others that have occurred in the meantime—if scores had been settled with the Iraqi dictator at that time, once and for all, by sending in troops to Baghdad, finding the top leader, destroying him, and establishing a new regime to lead Iraq.

I will say right away that I am not of this opinion. If we had done that we would have committed a grave error. First, we had to keep in mind that the world had just emerged from the Cold War and that we had not yet collectively formulated methods and forms of action suited to the new circumstances. We could not make mistakes, create precedents that would be difficult to correct. The most important lesson was that East and West were able to act in concert. There were temptations on the American side to make partisan interests prevail,

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but ultimately the allied front acted as a relatively compact whole under the UN flag.

Saddam Husayn miscalculated, just as he is miscalculating now, because he still reasons according to the old Cold War rationale. He expected to exert pressure on us, exploiting that rationale, and failed. This was the sometimes painful impression that we derived from meetings that he had with our envoys to Baghdad and from many conversations with his foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, when he came to Moscow.

The issue was clear. We were confronted by an act of aggression. It was necessary to respond with collective and well-pondered decisions that placed the emphasis on a political solution. Of course there were many arguments. We thought that we should put the maximum political pressure on Saddam Husayn, partly through sanctions. From the outset the Americans mistrusted our approach and thought that our initiatives to make contact with Iraq would be interpreted by Saddam Husayn as a sign of encouragement and as an indication of the existence of a split between the Soviet Union and the rest of the states that wanted to punish the aggression.

Nevertheless our multilateral action was a success. This, insofar as it made it possible to isolate Saddam Husayn almost completely within the Arab world and granted credibility to the UN Security Council's action and resolutions. The fact that it came to war was not our fault, individually or collectively: It happened because Saddam Husayn was unable to understand that he was bound to lose. But I must say that, despite Saddam Husayn's stubbornness, the possibility of putting pressure on Iraq without using force remained open until the end. But the Americans had by that point amassed such a huge military apparatus that they considered it impossible to avoid putting it into action. In this regard my opinion diverged from that of George Bush.

There were many casualties, and there were also many temptations to exceed the UN mandate. There were "surgical" strikes on the Iraqi capital, whose obvious aim was to kill Saddam Husayn. Especially within the American staff, there were still some who believed that as long as Saddam Husayn remained in Iraq peace could not be achieved in the region.

But I believed, and I still believe, that to exceed the UN mandate, to seek the objective of replacing or physically eliminating Saddam Husayn would have negative repercussions on the development of international affairs as a whole, far beyond the confines of the Gulf and the time limits of that situation. The international community had to display methodological wisdom. The UN mandate spoke about ending the aggression and restoring the status quo ante its unleashing on Kuwait. No more, no less. The rest had to be done by the Iraqis, if they could. It was, and remains, up to them to decide whom to install in place of the present members of government. In all my meetings with the American leadership I continued to point out that the problem facing us was not only how and when to launch the military action but also to decide how and when to end it.

In this regard we found a wise and far-sighted solution tha and that will continue to do so whenever we manage to adopt it. I am convinced that the developments in peace in the Middle East, the beginning of a solution to the Palestinian problem, were the result partly of that wisdom.

The latest farcical venture attempted by Saddam Husayn does not alter this. He is clearly in difficulties for having refused to fully meet the Security Council resolutions, and thinks that he can change the situation by means of various kinds of threats. But I do not think that he will risk any further military actions: His army is weaker than before, his tanks are older, even his popular support is weaker. Virtually no foreign states support him. He used to have 'Arafat as his ally, and he has lost him. Even Libya, which used to support him, has adopted a more cautious stance. For this reason too I think that the American response to this latest provocation from Saddam Husayn was unsatisfactory, inflated by too many threats and excessive fears.

As against this, there is international legality as represented by the United Nations. And only observance of its decisions can open the way to the reduction and eventually the elimination of sanctions. Unfortunately the economic sanctions hit a people already tried by the war and by the consequences of the Iraqi regime's isolation. But there is no alternative to maintaining them inflexibly until Saddam Husayn submits to the resolutions of the international community. There is no better method that can guarantee peace and at the same time facilitate a change of policy on Iraq's part.

DPRK Envoy Criticizes IAEA

LD2510210094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2010 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Russia is interested in fulfilling the American-North-Korean agreement on settling the nuclear problem, which was signed in Geneva on October 21, said Valentin Kovalev, deputy speaker of the State Duma, when he met with North Korean ambassador Son Sung-pil here on Tuesday.

Son Sung-pil informed Kovalev about current situation in the field of nuclear research in North Korea.

The ambassador remarked that conclusions made by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in regard of the nature of North- Korean nuclear programme differed from reality.

These incongruities were "made up and came as a result of hostile treatment of North Korea on the part of the USA", the North-Korean ambassador said.

Kovalev, in his turn, said that Russia and North Korea are brought together by "friendly relations and a common frontier".

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Moscow is ready to "help Pyongyang by acting as an intermediary", Kovalev said.

Notes Significance of Agreement

SK2510134194 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held at the DPRK Embassy in Russia in connection with the adoption on 21 October of the DPRK-U.S. agreement on the settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and the improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations. Russian reporters attended the news conference.

Son Song-pil, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, speaking before the reporters, stressed that the DPRK-U.S. agreement is of historic significance. He stated that the agreement is aimed at resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula for good. The ambassador noted finally t'.at the agreement will contribute to the normalization of relations between the DPRK and the United States and consolidating peace and security in Asia.

Moscow 'Meticulously Studying' Nuclear Accord

LD2510163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1504 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow has not yet formulated its attitude to the recent accord between Washington and Pyongyang to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, a diplomatic source said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is "meticulously studying" the agreement, signed in Geneva a few days ago, and will shortly state its position on it, the source told Interfax on Monday.

What poses problems for Russia is a clause in the document which proposes setting up a US-guided consortium to replace reactors at North Korean nuclear power plants to rule out production of weapon-grade plutonium at them. Russia had already offered the communist state its technology for the replacement, while Pyongyang, according to senior Russian diplomats, had officially stated its preference for Russian assistance in this. Moscow cannot fully understand how the consortium idea can be combined with Russian participation in the project, the source said.

He said the Geneva agreement made no provision for an international tender for the right to provide North Korea with new reactors.

According to media reports, South Korea earlier offered its own reactors as a condition for Seoul's partial funding of the replacement.

Spokesman Says Muslim Actions Threat to Sarajevo

LD2510184594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Muslim attempts to protract the withdrawal of their troops from the demilitarized zone in the area of the Bosnian Igman mountain provoke alarm of the Russian Foreign Ministry, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

In his words, the Russian side supports UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] efforts on withdrawal of armed units of the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and hopes that the U.N. peace-makers command in former Yugoslavia will manage to immediately restore the status quo. The current situation may aggravate the Serb-Muslim opposition and create a threat of an outbreak in the area of Sarajevo, said Karasin.

At the same time, Russia cannot approve the actions of Bosnian Serbs who are hampering movement of convoys with material-technical cargo for U.N. troops and humanitarian convoys. "We hope that recent negotiations of the UNPROFOR and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees with the Serb side have created prerequisites for the solution of this problem," said Karasin.

Spokesman on Bosnian Muslim Procrastination

LD2510145094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1346 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The Muslim side's attempts to drag out the process of withdrawing their units from the demilitarized zone near Mt. Igman in Bosnia is causing "great concern" at the Russian Foreign Ministry, said Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry press and information department, at a briefing today.

The Russian side, he commented, backs UNPROFOR efforts to bring about the withdrawal of Bosnia-Herzegovina government military units, and expresses hope that the UN peace-keepers' command in former Yugoslavia will succeed in restoring the "status quo" immediately. The continuation of such a situation can only deepen the confrontation between the Serb and Muslim sides, and also creates the threat of the situation exploding in the Sarajevo area.

At the same time, Karasin pointed out, the actions of the Bosnian Serbs cannot but be inimical to Russia, in impeding the passage of convoys carrying materials and equipment designated for UNPROFOR units to function normally, and of convoys carrying humanitarian aid. "We hope," the diplomat said, "that the recent talks between UNPROFOR, the (?UNHCR), and the Serb side created the prerequisites for removing this problem."

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Foreign Ministry Condemns Colombo Bomb Attacks

LD2510202394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—At a news briefing today, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, condemned the terrorist act in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, which entailed numerous casualties. According to the diplomat, the tragic events in Colombo underlined the need to step up the drive against terrorism both on an intrastate level and within the framework of the world community.

G. Karasin voiced sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of those who died as a result of the terrorist act.

Treatment of Ships in Joint Exercises Decried

MM2510094994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Captain First Rank Valeriy Gromak: "If It Is To Be a Partnership, It Must Be a Partnership on Equal Terms. Notes of a Participant in Joint Action-94 Exercise"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] It was a thrilling spectacle. The leaden clouds hanging low over the leaden surface of the North Sea, the 18 ships of various classes under various countries' flags moving at a speed of 14 knots, the nine ship's helicopters flying over them in joint formation.... Add to this the sight of rescuers being landed from the helicopters onto the ships' decks, the torrential rain and strong wind, and just for a moment you will be immersed in the atmosphere of the Joint Action-94 exercise. It was held 28 September through 7 October in the Skagerrak and the northeastern waters of the North Sea, and also on a part of Norwegian territory and in Norwegian territorial waters. [passage omitted]

Every sea voyage is a good school of naval combat training and culture for a ship and its crew. Be that as it may, during the exercise the Russian ships' crews completed this school. During the naval episodes alone 1,094 miles were covered, helicopter pilots' total flying time was 8 hours 43 minutes, and 19 deck landings were made. The Russians also managed to learn from other navies' sailors, since they went to sea with top-class professionals with a complete mastery of the art of seamanship in any conditions.

This exercise, like the Baltops-94 exercise, confirmed that on Dutch, British, Swedish, and German ships every minute at sea is utilized with great effectiveness to train personnel. Here is what Captain First Rank Vladislav Andreyev, who spent 72 hours on the Dutch frigate Kortenaer, had to say on this subject: "While the ship was carrying out maneuvers and exercises according to the general plan, the crew was also practicing shipboard exercises to combat water and fire and to render first aid to casualties." Another Russian observer, Captain Third Rank Igor Bukhalin, noted the same on the British frigate Newcastle.

The crew of the patrol escort Neustrashimyy, however, spent the entire naval phase of the exercise working on the bridge, figuratively speaking. I observed a similar picture during the Baltops-94 exercise. This can be attributed to nothing but the poor organization of service on this ship. In our economic conditions it is, to put it mildly, not altogether sensible to fail to use sea voyages, of which there are few enough, to practice all the crew's skills.

Our ships' participation in NATO maneuvers is becoming a system. But unfortunately there is absolutely no legal basis underpinning this system. On our ships, NATO documents containing a list of their established commands are a document for translators. None of the watch officers learns them, because they have no desire to learn English. During exercises I get the impression that a Russian warship is being run not by the commander, nor the watch officer, but by a translator with the rank of senior warrant officer. This cannot go on indefinitely.

I would also like to give my opinion on the way in which the exercise itself was conducted. Summing up its results, Admiral Hugo White highly appraised the atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork and coordination in all its participants' actions. He also stressed that NATO's Brussels headquarters must review certain restrictions on access to information allowed to countries who are participants in the Partnership for Peace program. This is gratifying, because this program can be developed only on the basis of trust, equality, and mutual collaboration. The Joint Action-94 exercise has undoubtedly broadened the frontier of mutual understanding among the sailors of the different navies. This in turn facilitates the broadening of confidence-building measures. But it seems to me that in certain NATO circles people have not gotten away from the stereotyped thinking of the Cold War times. In Kristiansand documents on episodes of the exercise were for some incomprehensible reason issued to Russian ships immediately prior to going to sea, and the situation had to be clarified on the move during the action. In certain episodes of the naval phase Russian ships were casually removed from carrying out basic measures. For example, on the penultimate day of the exercise its leader took two Russian ships and the Lithuanian corvette Zemaitis out of the general formation and "drove" them into a fjord, where for several hours they practiced sailing in wake formation. During this time NATO countries' ships were tackling their own tasks, which were simply not conveyed to the other participants in the exercise. What is to be made of this episode?

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Or how can the following fact be viewed from the standpoint of equality within the framework of partnership. The plans which the Russian side had did not mention the participation of a U.S. ship in the exercise. Nevertheless the U.S. guided missile destroyer Conolly hastened to the exercise area from the Red Sea. When I asked what prompted this, none of the exercise leaders could answer. Nor were they able to explain the following. The patrol escorts Neustrashimyy and Druzhnyy arrived at Kristiansand roadstead at the appointed time. But the pilot service took into port first the U.S destroyer, which had arrived much later than the Russian ships. Moreover, the destroyer was positioned in such a way that fairly difficult mooring conditions were created for the Russian ships....

The Partnership for Peace program envisages the expansion of confidence-building measures. The Russian Navy has a profound understanding of and respect for its partners. It would be nice if this respect were mutual. If it is to be a partnership, it must be a partnership on equal terms.

DCI Woolsey's Plans for CIA 'Retructuring' Viewed

MM2510125194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 9

[Report by Sergey Ivanov: "Ames Launched CIA Restructuring...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—Restructuring in the CIA is a call of the times. That is the conclusion reached by interested parties in the United States. Addressing the Senate Intelligence Committee, Agency Director James Woolsey sketched out the seven main avenues which the process of improving espionage activity will be following.

Headquarters is seriously tackling reform. For instance, in order to get a new posting, an operative will have to have worked in the analysis service.

Closer ties are now being established between the intelligence operations directorate and the information directorate so as to rule out any duplication and ultimately to enhance the effectiveness of work on intelligence reports.

A CIA agent's next promotion will now depend not on the number of agents he recruits but on how greatly operational security is improved.

Operational intelligence officers will have to go through an additional training course in counterintelligence science.

Starting next January, a special commission within the intelligence operations directorate will examine the "case" of each staffer's suitability for service with the CIA. And work will start in November on preparing individual files on each staffer.

The well-known slogan "start restructuring with yourself" has been picked up and creatively reworked by the CIA. The Senate, however, did not react to the Woolsey reform plan with a round of applause. Dennis DeConcini, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, complained that he did not see any key points in the reforms that would "change the CIA culture—that is, change the tendency to clam up about problems, cover up for poor employees, and oppose reform."

Literally the other day DeConcini's words were confirmed by a very unpleasant incident. James Woolsey reprimanded 11 ranking CIA officials who were in one way or another involved in the Ames affair. Hardest hit were four leaders, three of whom are already retired. The fourth was Milton Bearden, CIA station chief in Bonn, who is also planning to retire.

Berden had had a long career as an intelligence officer before being reprimanded. He worked in Africa, Hong Kong, and Pakistan, where, incidentally, he was in charge of moving weapons into Afghanistan. His problem is that in 1985 Bearden was Ames' boss—that was the year when Soviet intelligence recruited him.

But the day after Bearden's punishment was announced a dispatch signed by John McGaffin, deputy director of covert operations, and Frank Anderson, head of the Near East Department, arrived in Bonn. The telegram noted Bearden's great contribution to the job.... And so forth. It now transpires that neither Woolsey nor Ted Price, director of covert operations, knew about the CIA's congratulations to its station chief. Scandalous! Woolsey issued an order firing McGaffin and Anderson.

Basically, the two senior CIA officers suffered for their enterprising attempt to raise their colleague's morale.

The incident prompted further talk in Congress about the spirit of genuine camaraderie within the secret department.

U.S. Successes Show Value, Limits of Armed Force

MM2510140394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Sychev: "Diplomacy of Force or Force of Diplomacy? The U.S. Defense Secretary Believes the Former Is More Reliable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has recently gathered in a rich harvest of foreign policy successes, which Washington, to all appearances, is increasingly inclined to ascribe to its determination to use U.S. force in settling regional problems that arise.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has returned to Washington on a white charger from an 11-day tour of countries in the Near East and the Asia-Pacific region. While he was in the Persian Gulf region, Saddam Husayn withdrew his troops from the Kuwaiti border. As

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he arrived in Seoul, a U.S.-North Korean agreement on resolving the problem of the North Korean nuclear program was concluded. Not unnaturally the secretary got the impression that, as Perry himself put it, "the presence of U.S. military force and the U.S. Administration's determination to use it have prevented wars."

In international affairs the mailed fist has always been a persuasive factor of tremendous strength, albeit not always an exhaustive one. Both the United States and its opponent—the USSR—frequently resorted to this argument in their history. Sometimes they even managed to stabilize the situation in individual countries for a long time. Moreover, the entire bipolar system of international relations existed and seemed a sufficiently stable structure thanks to these two superpowers' mutual threat to destroy each other. With the ending of the Cold War the system of counterweights collapsed, and for several years now the world has been frantically seeking new means that will make it possible to maintain stability and order at a lower cost.

The United States is involved in this search. "What we are trying to do is to define more precisely the role of deterrence in a world in which the significance of nuclear weapons has diminished drastically," a Clinton administration spokesman told AP in explanation of the significance of Perry's mission and of the U.S. foreign policy successes.

Armed force, despite its radical nature, strikes many people as a very tempting means. Its foreign policy merits include speed in resolving problems and a prophylactic effect. Moreover the value attached to the force of arms increased rapidly after the 1991 Kuwaiti campaign, when international forces under U.S. leadership restored justice in the Persian Gulf. Unlike in Cambodia, where it took years for the conditions to arise for a UN peacekeeping force to be sent into that country. Many politicians see the West's indecisiveness with regard to using armed might in Yugoslavia as the reason for the continuing impasse there.

But is military might all that effective in international affairs? Force is undoubtedly capable of restoring a status quo, as in the case of Iraq, or of prompting countries with similar regimes and territorial claims to think about the consequences of planned aggression. But that same force has demonstrated its political bankruptcy and strategic harmfulness, leaving scars on the memory of peoples when interethnic conflicts are involved. Of course, Iraq was routed by U.S. troops in the Kuwaiti campaign, but it is not the United States that the Baghdad dictator fears but the cohesion of the world community. It is clearly in this that a new system of guarantees of stability in the world arena should be sought.

Soskovets: Japan To Be Offered Profitable Projects

LD2510145394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—"The Russian delegation's November visit to Japan will mark a responsible stage in relations between the two countries," First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets said today during a meeting with a delegation of the inter-party parliamentary association of Japanese-Russian friendship, which is currently visiting Moscow.

According to the vice-premier, the Russian side plans to offer Japan several interesting and mutually profitable cooperation projects. Of priority importance among them, Soskovets believes, is the reconstruction of the "Yaroslavnefteorgsintez" plant, estimated at 240 million U.S. dollars, the modernisation of the Lenin Komsomol automobile works, for which the Japanese side is ready to allocate 140 million U.S. dollars, and the joint project to develop the "Kamaz" joint-stock society.

Asked by ITAR-TASS after the meeting about possible political discussions, Soskovets said that the dialogue would be limited to the development of intergovernmental bilateral relations, and that it was the prerogative of the Foreign Ministry to deal with the issue of the South Kurils islands, known as the "northern territory" in Japan.

The sides will discuss during the upcoming visit some ways to avoid dual taxation, to back small and medium-size businesses, and also problems linked with the participation of Japanese firms in the development of the Russian Far East.

Much attention is expected to be devoted to the problem of settling Russian debts to private Japanese companies, which had supplied goods to the former USSR. It is pertinent to recall that Soskovets and Japanese Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe had reached agreement during their recent meeting to set up a Russo- Japanese inter-governmental commission for commercial, economic, scientific, and technological cooperation, which would coordinate the entire process of the development of bilateral relations.

Soskovets, Japanese Official Discuss Relations

OW2610023994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 26 KYODO—First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets on Tuesday [25 October] held talks on bilateral concerns with a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official, Japanese embassy officials said.

Tsuneo Nishida, deputy director general of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, met Soskovets in Moscow and exchanged views on such topics as recent Russian Coast Guard attacks on Japanese fishing boats in waters near the four Russian-held islands [Kurils] claimed by Japan.

They also discussed the conclusion of a bilateral treaty on fishing in waters around the islands—Kunashiri,

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Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, the officials said.

The islands were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Nishida is in Russia to pave the way for Soskovets' visit to Japan next month.

Kozyrev, Norwegian Premier Discuss Cooperation

LD2510173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1632 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Igor Pshenichnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kirkenes October 25 TASS—Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with Norwegian Premier Gro Harlem Brundtland on Tuesday.

They discussed economic cooperation between their countries both on a purely bilateral basis and within the framework of the activities of the Barents Sea Council.

They confirmed their "intention to go ahead with cooperation, because it is an indisputable choice," Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS.

They also considered Norway's possible joining the European Council. Norway's possible joining the European Council should not affect Russian-Norwegian business ties and their cooperation within the framework of the Barents Sea region, Brundtland told Kozyrev.

If the council makes additional investments in the region, Russia's interests will be taken into account, Kozyrev remarked.

The parties also discussed a working programme for further development of contacts and cooperation between Russia and Norway in 1994-1995, and ways of eliminating certain "artificially formed problems" for mutual commodity circulation between northern districts of Norway and Russia.

Brundtland paid special attention to large-scale festivities in Kirkenes on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of liberating Norwegian polar regions by Soviet troops from the Nazi occupants as a token of Norwegians' profound gratitude to the liberators.

Kozyrev left Kirkenes for Russia on Tuesday.

Kozyrev Returns From Norway

LD2510185894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1825 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—This evening Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Federation foreign minister, returned to Moscow from Kirkenes, where he took part in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet troops liberation of the Norwegian polar regions from the Hitlerite occupation forces. During the visit the head of the Russian diplomacy held talks with the state leaders of Norway. Documents were signed, which define new boundaries for bilateral cooperation.

On Wednesday morning Kozyrev will leave for the Jordanian town of al-'Aqaba, where he will take part in the ceremony to sign a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan.

Foreign Ministry Comments on Caspian Oil

LD2510183294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed his amazement at the public statement by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev saying that Russia will not obstacle the implementation of a contract on the exploitation of the Caspian shelf.

According to Aliyev, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin promised this to him at the recent CIS summit in Moscow.

The Russian diplomat doubted the statement's authenticity. "If it is true to life, then Chernomyrdin virtually recognized Azerbaijan's right to extend its jurisdiction over this part of the Caspian Sea on behalf of the Russian Government, while this runs counter to the present legal status of this reservoir," he added.

According to the source, "the Russian Foreign Ministry's disagreement with the oil contract between Azerbaijan and an international consortium is caused by the fact that Baku is trying to usurp this part of the Caspian Sea."

Meanwhile, existing agreements on the Caspian Sea do not provide for dividing it up into national sectors. "To demarcate borders on the Caspian Sea, the consent of all coastal states (Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan - IF note) is needed. However, there is no such agreement yet," he said.

The diplomat pointed out that the oil contract further aggravated the territorial issue "which is beyond the competence of the executive." "The issue may be solved only by signing a multilateral agreement, subject to ratification by the parliaments of Caspian states," he added.

The diplomat said Moscow was ready to negotiate changing the legal status of the Caspian Sea taking into account new political realities. "Not once have we told other Caspian states of this," he pointed out.

Iranian Envoy, Environment Minister Discuss Caspian

LD2510200594 Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 25, IRNA—The Russian Minister of the Environment and Natural

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Resources Danilov-Danilyan and Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Mehdi Safari here today agreed that the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea can be the most important element of cooperation between the two coutries.

The Iranian ambassador told the Russian minister that Tehran and Moscow have long term common interests in the Caspian Sea and can uphold their cooperation within the framework of the projected organization of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Safari said the Islamic Republic is ready to offer every help in every area for protection of the environment of the Caspian.

The Caspian, the world's largest inland sea, is a rich source of many species of edible fish, including sturgeons which yields the prized caviar, a delicacy on international markets.

Iran and the Russian Federation respectively border the southern and northern shores of the Caspian, which on the southwest is hemmed in by the Azerbaijan Republic, on the southeast by Turkmenistan and on the northeast by Kazakhstan.

The Caspian is believed to contain rich hydrocarbon reserves, the wanton and uncoordinated exploitation of which by littoral states, would lead to disastrous ecological results.

Shokhin Receives Berlin Mayor

LD2510223494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—Germany is Russia's biggest economic and political partner. This was stated by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin at a meeting with Eberhard Diepgen, the ruling mayor of Berlin, who arrived in Moscow today on an official visit.

During the conversation questions of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of the municipal economy and transport were discussed. In particular, the sides exchanged opinions on a project for the construction of a European motorway connecting Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, and Moscow.

According to Aleksandr Shokhin, these are not some kind of abstract plans, but full business projects, in which German business, the federal government and the Berlin senate are showing interest. "We believe that there is every reason to start implementing them in the very near future on the basis of joint government and private financing", he stated.

These projects, Aleksandr Shokhin noted, are of benefit to Russia, not only from the economic but also the social point of view. In his opinion, they will help to solve the problem of unemployment and to create more jobs in the country, including jobs for Russian servicemen discharged to the reserve and for resettlers.

Temporary Trade Agreement With EC Postponed

LD2610095294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0705 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Progress is extremely slow in the talks between the European Community [EC] and Russia on concluding a temporary trade agreement, and the draft agreement is highly unlikely to be submitted for examination to the EC Council 31 October. The document was to come into effect 1 January 1995, but this has now been postponed until a later date, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations announced.

Well-informed sources in Brussels note that recent events in Russia, in particular the Black Tuesday [11 October crash of the ruble] and the change of leadership in the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank, significantly impeded talks on the temporary trade agreement.

Lower Ruble Expected To Boost Arms Exports to South Asia

MK2510114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Trade" rubric: "Russian Weapons Approach the Indian Ocean. India, Malaysia, and Singapore Pledging To Help Domestic Defense Industry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arms traders and representatives of the military-industrial sector continue insistently to offer domestic weapons to South Asian countries. Malaysia will probably buy T-72 tanks alongside MiG-29 fighter jets. Talks on intentions continue with Thailand. Reports emerge about new, grandiose defense projects with India, a long-time trade partner, whose army is more than half- equipped with Soviet-made weapons.

Last week, Viktor Samoylov, general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company, held talks in Bangkok. According to reports, the Thais, as is their wont, smilingly agreed to cooperate in principle, but things did not go as far as the discussion of details. The Thai military does not yet know how much money the government will specifically earmark to them for arms purchases, and for this reason they are only collecting preliminary offers from potential suppliers for further bargaining. In mid- November a high-ranking Thai delegation is scheduled to arrive in Moscow for further talks.

The Thai Army, which was a U.S. ally during the Vietnam war, is armed mostly with U.S.-made weapons. The diversification of purchases almost always gives rise to supply problems owing to an increase in incompatible systems. But Russia does have a serious competitive edge—it is ready in principle to swap up-to-date

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weapons for Thai rice, while the United States, the largest rice exporter, bitterly competes with Bangkok on the world market.

Barter deals are not very attractive for the military-industrial sector, though. Defense plants do not know what to do with trainloads of Chinese vodka, canned meat, noodles, jackets, Snickers, and other consumer goods of extremely low quality. As a rule, they sell these goods at a loss, if at all. In addition, Russia has its own rice province, Kuban, and local producers are unlikely to be pleased if the Russian defense industry starts dumping rice on the domestic market.

The problem of settling accounts is one of the main reasons holding back arms exports. Only developed Western countries and Near East oil exporters can in principle pay for large consignments of state-of-the-art weapons with freely convertible currency. India, for instance, is extremely interested in large-scale military cooperation with Russia, but even signed contracts are not being complied with.

India is one of Russia's largest foreign debtors, but for the third year now an effective mechanism for repaying the multi- billion-dollar debt has not been devised. Nonetheless, in 1992 the Russian Government gave Delhi an extra two-year special government credit of $830 million to buy Russian arms.

Joint tank, aircraft, and shipbuilding programs were drawn up precisely to accommodate the credit's targets. The credit has remained largely unclaimed, however, and the programs have never been implemented. Domestic arms producers claim that in an attempt to increase state budget revenues at the expense of foreign economic activity, the Russian Finance Ministry has created intolerable conditions for exporters. The Indian program for the construction of Alfa class naval ships has been suspended. Hulls have already been built and stand on the stocks but no internal works from Russia is forthcoming. The Indians incur great losses because of the stoppage. India's tank-building program has also ground to a halt.

Evidently, the reason is not only the Finance Ministry's "greed." This past summer the main domestic arms manufacturers insisted in unison that the then exchange rate of the dollar (approximately 2,000 rubles) was absolutely unacceptable and that arms exports would again be profitable only at an exchange rate of about 4,000 rubles per dollar. Now that the exchange rate has changed, Russian exporters will apparently act more energetically.

In the summer, during the Moscow visit by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, the "remainder" of the Russian credit ($780 million) was extended for another two years, and other problems also seemed to be resolved. The Indians wanted in principle to buy 35 MiG- 29M's, jointly to upgrade several hundred MiG-21 fighter jets, to switch their tank and aviation plants built with the USSR's assistance to the production of up-to-date Russian weapons, and so forth. Indian Defense Secretary Nambyara is scheduled to come to Moscow in the near future, and then contracts will probably be signed. Whether they will be realized in practice, however, will depend on our internal political situation and, first, on the dollar's exchange rate.

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Political Issues

Shokhin Opposes Major Government Reshuffle

LD2510185794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vice-Premier and Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin says the government is likely to survive a no confidence vote in parliament on Thursday. "I am convinced by the experience of political arithmetics", he told Interfax on Tuesday [25 October]. Shokhin believes that the house debate on the no confidence vote will be nothing but "a knocking-up exercise for the opposition". He said the vote will have no political or practical implications apart from diverting attention to the unity within opposition ranks if there is any.

Shokhin said the government will be prepared to discuss concrete issues if the ideology of the next year budget is supported by parliament. Nor does he rule out any constructive engagement with opposition leaders some of whom are far from willing to vote the government out of power. In this case, he said, the opposition will have to challenge the government program or agree to work together because that it has some common sense.

The vice-premier denied being bothered about house hearings on Thursday. "The debate provides the government a good chance of laying down its plans for 1995, and if it survives a no confidence vote, this will mean moral support for our reform program", he said.

"The latest flurry of opposition activity is an indication of the few remaining chances it has for influencing events and trying to prove that things have never been so appalling as they are now. But what happens now is a turnabout, albeit not so vivid a month ago, when the saplings of stability have started to take root", Shokhin said.

The vice-premier thinks that any major shake up of the government will be ineffective in a situation such as it is now. He warned against attempts to try to "reshuffle the cabinet by 30 percent by inviting opposition members and to retain the same policy". But a mere swapping of posts within the incumbent cabinet will make no one happier, he said.

Appeal Urges Opposition to 'Dangerous' Yeltsin

MM2510161794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

["Appeal to Leaders of the Opposition," signed by deputies, journalists, scientists, artists, and writers; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is expiring hour by hour. There is no time to be lost. Russia is being systematically stifled by an antipeople regime which is concluding the evil deed of destroying our statehood. Those who bear responsibility for the catastrophe besetting the country are united in order to hold onto power.

And you, by pinning labels on each other, are willy-nilly playing into the hands of the unstable, unpredictable, and very dangerous B.N. Yeltsin. You must stifle your own pride and petty ambitions and cast off group and personal prejudices and inflated self-appraisal.

Pool your efforts. Sit down at a roundtable. Draw up, once and for all, a common—but not commonplace—realistic, comprehensible action program convincing for the majority of the people. Channel your efforts to the good of your Motherland.

The people will not forgive you your discord. What are the reasons for it?

What is it for? What are you dividing? Find a presidential candidate from the genuine, not the false, opposition, a candidate enjoying the confidence of his compatriots.

There is nowhere to retreat. Delay means the death of Russia.

The letter-appeal has been signed by deputies, journalists, scientists, artists, writers: Kiseleva Ye.G.; Avdeyenko T.P.; Sorokina M.I.; Lukyanova Ye.A.; Mitina N.V.; Pletneva T.V.; Gudima T.M.; Garifulina N.Kh., Kovaleva I.N.; Koryagina T.I.; Morozova N.P.; Zaytseva L.V.; Veduta Ye.N.; Boyko V.A.; Oleynik L.V.; Lioznova T.M.

Officials View Chernomyrdin Confidence Vote

LD2510164294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1504 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Duma's faction representing the Party of Russian Unity and Concord suggested on Tuesday that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin make a counter-proposal during the session on October 27 and urge the deputies to come to a decision on the question of confidence in the government, faction leader and Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told Interfax. He said that such a proposal, if accepted by Chernomyrdin, might provide an alternative to the plan of some members of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR) faction to include the vote of no confidence in the government in the agenda on Thursday.

Shakhray said that his faction would oppose the proposal by eight members of the DPR faction to pass the vote of no confidence in the government.

"Both the prime minister and the faction leaders must make serious efforts to ensure that proper conditions be created for the government's efficient work," he said. He also noted that the government cannot work normally

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amid various rumors about it. To ensure that the Cabinet start working normally, a parliamentary majority supporting the government must be formed up, he said.

The Russia's Choice faction will finally determine its position after Chernomyrdin's report on Thursday, this faction's member and co-chairman of the Democratic Russia movement and party, Lev Ponomarev, told Interfax.

He pointed out that during the faction conference on Tuesday, held in the absence of its leader Yegor Gaydar, most of the members insisted on a meeting with Chernomyrdin before his report on Thursday.

Ponomarev said such a meeting might clear up what new members might appear in the government. "It's absolutely clear to me that if a figure like Yuriy Skokov joins the government, I will vote for no confidence in such a government," he said.

Boris Fedorov, the leader of the deputies' group, the Liberal-Democratic Union of December 12, told Interfax that his faction would vote for qualifying the government's work on economic reform as unsatisfactory.

If other factions do not submit such a resolution to the State Duma, the "Decembrists" will do so, said Fedorov. He noted, however, that his faction would abstain from the vote on the DPR faction's no confidence proposal. Three or four "Decembrists" will still vote no confidence in the government, said Fedorov.

Leader of the Yabloko faction, Grigory Yavlinskiy stated that his faction would be actively involved in the discussion of Chernomyrdin's report on Thursday, but would not take part in the vote of no confidence.

"We do not want to profane the real political process," he said. He also noted that "it is not at the level of prime minister that authority is disintegrating, and the replacement of the premier or any other key figure in the government will not result in any cardinal changes in the country."

The current political situation is strongly reminiscent of the last months of former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's stay in power, he said.

"The Yabloko faction is most of all concerned about the prospect of utter disintegration of authority, as a result of which five figures might come to the fore and announce that the power is in their hands," he said.

The Liberal Democratic Party's faction is to determine its position only after the prime minister delivers his report, the State Duma's Vice Speaker Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, who represents this party, told Interfax. He said that his faction was against what he called lobbying practices, and "does not intend to haggle for individual ministerial posts."

"We are not interested in coalition options" because "the overly politicized ministries and departments will fail to fulfil the national task of leading the country out of the crisis," stated Vengerovskiy.

The Liberal Democratic Party is convinced that as a party which scored the largest number of votes during the elections in December 1993 (the party was supported by 23 percent of the electors), it is trusted by the people and has the right to lay claims on the post of prime minister and on the formation of a one-party government.

He said that his party was ready to present and implement a program of its own with Boris Yeltsin as the head of state, because, he said, as the guarantor of democracy and reforms Yeltsin's tenure of this post was quite constitutional.

He noted that the Liberal Democratic Party would put up with Chernomyrdin as prime minister on the condition that he apply for membership in his party.

"His membership dues will be a considerable financial backing for the party," he said. (This party's membership dues amount to one percent of a member's monthly earnings.)

Party Officials Comment on Confidence Vote

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2030 GMT on 25 October carries a program entitled "Rostrum of the Factions" dealing with the vote of confidence in the government. The program is hosted by Irina Ozrina, who interviews the leaders of four major parties and factions represented in the State Duma—Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], Agrarian Party of Russia [APR], Democratic Party of Russia, and the Union of 12 September faction—on their views about the situation in the country and the vote of confidence in the government.

LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said the present situation in the country is unstable politically as well as economically, and a military coup is inevitable if no free elections are held this spring. He says: "We shall be taking part in the vote of confidence on Thursday [27 October]. We will listen to the prime minster, and I shall be speaking on behalf of the faction. But we have already been in opposition for five years and we want only one thing: if elections were held in the country, why have its results not been implemented by forming up a new government? The LDPR won the election, but it is not represented in the government. This is not normal." "Our attitude toward the government and the president's entourage is negative."

N.M. Kharitonov, deputy head of the Agrarian Party of Russia, said his faction is dissatisfied with the current situation in the country in general, and in the agricultural sector in particular. He admitted his faction is

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conferring with other Duma factions such as the communists, LDPR, and Russia's Choice as it tries to make up its mind how to vote on 27 October. "We are trying to consolidate our actions with these factions but at the same time not lose our own identity." Kharitonov says that a lot will depend on how impressed his faction will be by Chernomyrdin's report and the provisions for the agrarian sector in the next year's budget.

Ye.B. Malkin, deputy head of the Democratic Party of Russia, says the economic situation in the country is grave. He says: "The government has not fulfilled a single promise it has made. Judging from the government's actions so far, whatever program it proposes and whatever promises it gives, we have no confidence whatsoever that it will keep them. And this is what will become the determining factor in our vote."

B. Fedorov, leader of the Union of 12 September faction, says that some of the recent events—the ruble collapse and the murder of journalist Kholodov among other things—have brought into focus the very essence of the government's failure, its political and economic impotence, and the crisis it is now facing. He says: "It is time we did away with a government that does not have a majority in the parliament, a government whose members are not accountable to the people, a government that has no concrete action plan for getting out of the crisis—for each week and each month. We should also make clear our views on the president's behavior during his recent foreign trips. It is clear that it discredits our country. It is clear that we cannot just ignore it. Sadly, this too points to the crisis of power. We believe it is time to put all of these areas in order. According to constitution, our legally elected president's duty is to do everything to ensure first that our country does not become a laughing stock and, second to guarantee law and order in the country."

Spokesman on Moves To Save Dagestan Hostages

LD2610130894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Oct—In view of the seizure of hostages aboard a Yak-40 plane at Makhachkala airport, the Russian Foreign Ministry is working in close contact with the Federal Counterintelligence Service. All our diplomatic channels have been fully activated as a contingency for all possible developments of the situation. This was stated by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in a telephone interview this afternoon with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

According to the official Foreign Ministry spokesman, Russian ambassadors in regional capitals—not just in Iran, but also in a range of other states—have been briefed in detail on the development of events at Makhachkala airport and they have already got in touch with the leadership of their respective countries. Work is also being done through the ambassadors of regional states accredited in Moscow. We have already ascertained their position as regards the possibility of accepting the terrorists, Karasin pointed out.

The situation is very dramatic at the moment, the director of the Foreign Ministry department noted. "However, although we have very detailed information about the seizure of the hostages," he stressed, "in order to ensure the success of the operation to save them, it would not be wise to reveal it. We already know from previous experience that terrorists very carefully monitor information seeping into the press about the readiness or refusal of various countries to accept them, about delivery of ransoms, and in what currency.

Federal Budget Law Procedure Approved

LD2510164694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1504 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday [25 October] the Russian Federation Council approved the law on the procedure of debating and passing the 1995 federal budget.

The second vote on the law that was vetoed by President Boris Yeltsin and discussed and approved for the second time by the State Duma required a qualified majority of two thirds.

The law was backed by 141 deputies or 79% of all members of the house. Thus the veto was overruled and the president must sign the law in five days.

Yeltsin Signs Edict Facilitating Citizenship

LD2510153694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict making it easier for former Russian Federation citizens to obtain Russian citizenship. On the basis of this document, former citizens of Russia who returned to the country to live before the 6 February 1992 Law on Citizenship of the Russian Federation came into force are to be regarded as citizens of the Russian Federation. The appropriate documents will be drawn up on personal application.

Communists Reject Joining Present Government

MM2510155594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Communist Party Plenum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ninth Plenum of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Executive Committee has been held in Moscow. The

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plenum agenda was extremely packed. The CPRF Central Executive Committee Presidium submitted for discussion a report by G. Zyuganov, chairman of the CPRF Central Executive Committee, "On the Preparation of the Party Program and the Next CPRF Congress." The plenum discussed questions of party youth policy, a report on which was delivered by I. Melnikov, and the results of the holding of the all-Russia party assembly (speaker V. Kuptsov) and heard a report "On National Security in Russia" from V. Ilyukhin, State Duma deputy and chairman of the Security Committee. The plenum also discussed the question of participating in the coordination meeting of communist parties' representatives (speaker A. Shabanov). The plenum examined in detail the question "On the CPRF's Attitude to the Ruling Regime's Socioeconomic and Political Course."

In accordance with the CPRF Statute the plenum adopted a decision to convene the Third CPRF Congress on 21 January 1995 with the following agenda:

CPRF Central Executive Committee accountability report and the party's immediate tasks.

Central Control and Auditing Commission accountability report.

Accountability report of the CPRF faction in the Federal Assembly.

On the party program.

On amendments to the party statute.

Central Executive Committee and Central Control and Auditing Commission elections.

A representation norm for the Third CPRF Congress of one delegate per 1,400 CPRF members was approved.

The plenum adopted a special resolution on the CPRF's attitude to the ruling regime's socioeconomic and political course.

CPRF Central Executive Committee Plenum Resolution "On the CPRF's Attitude to the Ruling Regime's Socioeconomic and Political Course"

Having discussed the situation which has taken shape in Russia by the fall of 1994, the CPRF Central Executive Committee plenum considers that the socioeconomic and political course of the present ruling regime, which expressed the wishes and interests of the bourgeoisie, mafia-bureaucrat clans, and their foreign patrons is anti-people and antidemocratic. Only the abandonment of this course, early elections for president, and the formation of a government of national salvation can create the preconditions for emerging from the most profound crisis into which the country has been plunged. President Yeltsin's policy and personal conduct demean the dignity of our great people and are an insult to to the sacrifices made by millions of Soviet people to liberate mankind from the fascist plague and preserve peace.

The CPRF Central Executive Committee instructs the members of the Communist faction in the State Duma to exercise their constitutional right to express no confidence in the government and to formulate as speedily as possible new laws on elections for the Federal Assembly and the president, and also a law on Russia-wide referendums. They must proceed on the basis that at least such odious figures as Chubays, Shokhin, Kozyrev, Yerin, and Grachev cannot remain in the government.

The CPRF is firmly convinced that if the present anti-people course of the Russian president and government continue there can be no question of Communists participating in the government, which is to blame for the destruction of our great country.

Only in the event of a change of power and the formation of a government of national salvation can the CPRF Central Executive Committee Presidium, after consultation with the party and its allies, make a decision on participating in the creation of such a government.

Adopted 22 October 1994.

Paper Comments on Glazyev-Filatov Polemic

MM2610110794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Oct 94 p 2

[Article by Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy, followed by editorial comment: "Accord or Appeasement?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been decided to convene a Social Accord Assembly 22 October in order to analyze the fulfillment of the Treaty on Social Accord. Analyze to what purpose?

Common sense suggests—in order to ensure monitoring of its fulfillment. But the remarks of S. Filatov, leader of the Presidential Staff, in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI for 4 [as published] October cause one to doubt this. He modestly accounts for the nonfulfillment of the provisions of the Treaty on Social Accord by the objective impossibility of achieving a quick impact owing to the chronic nature of "virtually all the maior problems facing the country," and by the subjective factor of the opposition's activity. In particular, S. Filatov claims, there is the pressure of a number of organizations and politicians on the president and government with the purpose of lobbying for "narrow group and personal interests."

The people pronounced guilty this time of the disappointing failures of democratization include, among others, according to S. Filatov, Russian commodity producers who ventured to be skeptical as to the vitality of the accord reached "at the top." Mr. Filatov's dislike of the Russian commodity producer is entirely understandable—it is far more pleasant to deal with generous and accommodating foreign firms than with Russia's ruined and discontented enterprises. One would not like to believe that this is a reflection of the position of the

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president, who in his well-known Message to the Federal Assembly spoke at length about the need to support Russian industry.

Nevertheless, in whose "narrow group and personal interests" do the "lobbyists" for Russia's commodity producers operate, thereby creating, in Mr. Filatov's opinion, "subjective difficulties" in the implementation of the treaty's provisions? In order to obtain an answer on this extremely tricky question, let us turn to the resolution adopted at the recent commodity producers' congress, to which Mr. Filatov refers in his article.

The congress demanded the payment of the government's debts, the adoption of measures to untie the tangled knot of nonpayments, the implementation of tax reform, the protection of the internal market from the threat of unscrupulous foreign competition, the stimulation of investment activity, the expansion of state purchase orders, and the introduction of order into the management of state property and finances. This same congress also suggested to the authorities ways of mobilizing additional budgetary revenue in order to carry out essential anticrisis measures: by curbing the massive contraband trade in foreign goods subject to excise, increasing income from the privatization of state property, which is today being sold off for a song, increasing charges for the exploitation of natural resources, and abolishing illegal perquisites and privileges.

Of course, the leader of one of the two main departments of the executive could not have been overjoyed by the description of current economic policy heard at the congress as compradorist and carried out in the interests of foreign and speculative capital. But what can you do—after all, hundreds of decisions on granting import privileges, on state guarantees for foreign credits and investments, and on the expenditure of budget funds on the purchase of foreign goods, despite the crisis in the sale of domestic goods, were adopted precisely on the basis of this executive's edicts and decrees. And not a single decision has been adopted to stimulate exports or grant guarantees to the Russian investor, or to protect the internal market. Despite, incidentally, the well-known provisions in the president's Message and in the Treaty on Social Accord on the need to stimulate investment activity and create conditions to boost production. And this, when Russian goods have seen their share of the market fall from 80 to 50 percent in the past three years, and industrial investment has been reduced almost fourfold.

Unfortunately, instead of considering the causes of the sharp deterioration in the condition of the sphere of material production and the failure to implement the majority of areas of socioeconomic policy as declared in the president's Message and demanding that the parties to the Treaty on Social accord accept responsibility for their undertakings, the leader of the Presidential Staff could find nothing better to do than proclaim the interests of Russian commodity producers as narrow and personal. Supposing, probably, that the interests of speculative capital and the compradorist bourgeoisie are the interests of the people as a whole. It is difficult to suppose that Mr. Filatov is expressing the president's opinion in this case.

With such an approach sober and objective analysis of the fulfillment of the Treaty on Social Accord could be supplanted by yet another campaign of deception. One would not want to allow this—the treaty is signed by the chairman of the State Duma, and that means that the Duma's prestige is also at stake.

Impartial analysis of the implementation of the Treaty on Social Accord enables one to draw the unequivocal conclusion that the executive is not fulfilling its obligations. Take for example the section of the treaty on overcoming the socioeconomic crisis. *Of the government's nine commitments in this section only one can be considered as having been fulfilled—lowering the rate of inflation.* At the same time, it should be borne in mind that this was achieved by prohibited methods whose inadmissibility was explicitly indicated in the president's Message to the Federal Assembly—by increasing the government's indebtedness to enterprises, including in the form of unpaid wages, as a result of a two-fold reduction in expenditure on supporting the national economy by comparison with the expenditure established in the budget, which triggered an intensification of the nonpayments crisis. The very worst results have been achieved in these indicators in the current year—the monetary assets of enterprises in the sphere of material production now amount to less than one-fourth of the volume of overdue debts to suppliers, the overwhelming majority of whom are insolvent; at the same time overdue debts in the form of unpaid wages are now one-and-a-half times the monthly volume of the wage fund.

The nonfulfillment by the government of its other commitments under the treaty can be gauged from the following facts.

The government committed itself to bring about an increase in investment activity and create the prerequisites for an economic upturn. In reality, the first six months of this saw a sharp reduction in investment activity—the volume of capital investment in production fell by 36 percent. At the same time the federal investment program is stalled—only five of 450 facilities due to be commissioned have so far been commissioned, and targeted programs are being underfunded to the tune of one-third of the planned appropriations. According to official forecasts, this year the reduction in industrial production will reach the "record" level of 25 percent; moreover, in the high-technology sectors which determine modern economic growth it will reach 40-50 percent.

Such a profound reduction in production in one year is without precedent in modern economic history—many sectors constituting the basis of our economy and the

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potential for its future growth have effectively been destroyed. The wholesale reduction in production which began last fall continued even after the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord. In the second and third quarters the slump in production of the most important types of industrial output constituted: 10 to 50 percent in machine building, where production increased in only four areas [pozitsii] out of 18; between 5 and 30 percent in the chemicals and timber complex. The slump continued even in the relatively prosperous metallurgical and fuel and energy complexes. That the prerequisites for economic growth have not been created is suggested also by the results of polling of enterprise managers, the overwhelming majority of whom do not expect any improvement in the economic situation in the foreseeable future.

The government undertook to create the conditions to further the rights of property owners and for the formation of a competitive environment. The reduction in the level of VAT revenue from 7 percent of GDP in the first six months of 1993 to 5.4 percent of GDP in the first six months of 1994 and the growth of economic crime attest to the continuing expansion of the sphere of the shadow economy, which, according to some assessments accounts for 40 percent of commodity turnover. The growth in economic crime, the insolvency of the majority of industrial enterprises, the clandestine sale of state property at prices several times below the real value of the property thus privatized, arbitrary decision-making in the management of state property, and the chaos in the stock market leave little chance for the normal validation of the rights of property owners or the formation of a competitive environment.

The government undertook "to launch a structural overhaul of the economy...." In effect, the structural overhaul launched this year amounts to the rapidly advancing deindustrialization of the national economy and the overwhelming devastation of our scientific and industrial potential. In particular, the share of machine building in the structure of industrial production fell in the first six months of this year by 6 percent, the same amount by which the share of the raw material sectors increased—our economy is rapidly acquiring the features of an underdeveloped country. Production equipment is continuing to age; in industry its depreciation now exceeds 50 percent.

The government undertook "to create acceptable economic conditions for the functioning of the agro-industrial complex...." These conditions include the state of demand for agricultural produce, the availability of credits, and ownership rights to the means of production. The following statistics suggest the status of demand—by mid-September only 17 percent of harvested grain had reached the grain-reception enterprises, with only 4 percent of the set target entering the federal food reserve; and 15-20 percent less livestock produce had been sold compared to the corresponding period of last year. A price structure which discriminates against the peasants continues in place; as a result of the ill-conceived privatization of the processing industry the negative manifestations of a monopoly in the trade in agricultural commodities have intensified. Capital investment in the development of the agro-industrial complex has halved in comparison with last year. There is continuing chaos in land relationships, engendered by the willful abolition of a significant proportion of land legislation at the end of last year.

The government undertook "to carry out an active social policy aimed at the stabilization and subsequent improvement of living standards...at the reduction of the level of differentiation in the incomes of the population...." Despite the growth in the total volume of the population's monetary income, average pay fell by 12 percent in real terms this year, which reflects the continuing impermissibly high differentiation in the levels of the population's income (the average per capita income of the richest 10 percent of the population exceeds the average per capita income of the poorest 10 percent by a factor of 11.3). The proportion of the population whose income is lower than the subsistence minimum also remains at an unacceptably high level—22 percent. The accelerating growth of unemployment (up 17 percent by comparison with the corresponding period of last year) along with the slump in production guarantees the further intensification of the problem of poverty, which entails a deterioration in the standard of living of the most vulnerable strata of the population. The growth of the number of cases of socially conditioned illnesses—up 100 to 200 percent by comparison with last year—the increase in the number of people suffering from chronic alcoholism and drug addiction—up 40 and 90 percent respectively—and the continuing growth in the mortality rate, including the infant mortality rate, also attest to this.

The government undertook "to elaborate a federal program to promote employment, and other social programs." Despite a relatively insignificant underfunding of social expenditure, the level of funds allocated is clearly inadequate for the resolution of the most acute social problems. Thus, according to the data of the State Committee for Statistics, there are four unemployed job seekers for every single vacancy advertised with the employment services. Expenditure on health care is underfunded by 26 percent compared to the sum approved in the budget, and the fulfillment of a number of federal cultural programs has stalled.

Things are not so much better as regards fulfillment of several other sections of the treaty. The recent decision to call off the elections for heads of administration of the federation components, which even as it is are heavily economically and administratively dependent on Moscow, will hardly promote the consolidation of the federative structure. Nor is there anything to boast of in the sphere of national relationships. The growth of crime continues; polls testify to citizens' growing concern for their personal safety. The breakdown of morality, the

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suppression of national culture by foreign surrogates, and the decline of education have reached that dangerous level beyond which the degradation of society begins.

The measures being undertaken by the government to fulfil its commitments under the treaty are clearly inadequate. And if we are really serious about the idea of uniting constructive forces to overcome the crisis and create democracy, we should not engage in deception. The idea of social accord is too important to allow it to become the arena for yet another political spectacle. Perhaps this is the last chance to save society from disintegration and degradation and to overcome the economic crisis.

The State Duma suggested the idea of social accord at the beginning of the year and cannot stand aside from its implementation today. But accord is mutual responsibility for the fulfillment of undertakings. Otherwise it is just plain appeasement. Unfortunately, the executive power so far shows no signs of serious responsibility for the fulfillment of its undertakings. This means that the other parties to the Treaty on Social Accord should take upon themselves the task of seeing that the "party of power" fulfills the treaty, and not allowing this great idea to become a screen for lawlessness and irresponsibility. [Glazyev ends]

From the Editorial Office: A Commonplace Lobbyist in the State Duma.

In sending to our newspaper his reflections on the problem of accord in Russian society as a response to the remarks of the leader of the Presidential Staff (ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 5 October 1994), Sergey Glazyev insisted with his characteristic energy that the article should be published before 22 October. Not in person, of course, but through his polite, but firm, aides, who regularly called the chief editor to seek his unquestioning support for their chief's wish.

The reason that the author of the article "Accord or Appeasement?" insisted on its publication before 22 October was probably because it was on this day that the Social Accord Assembly was to meet, and Sergey Glazyev possibly counted on creating with his article some kind of ideological alternative to this high assembly.

But the date of the assembly's meeting was, for a number of reasons, postponed. Sergey Glazyev made no further request to the editors in this connection. So we are publishing the article by mutual agreement, so to speak.

However, let us try to delve a little further into the sense of the Duma committee chairman's arguments and to understand the logic of his reasoning.

Mr. Glazyev, referring to the opinion voiced by the leader of the Presidential Staff that certain politicians, in expressing narrow group interests, are behaving like lobbyists with the aim of putting pressure on the president and the government, draws a strange conclusion: Sergey Filatov, he says, does not like Russian producers, since he finds it more pleasant "to do business with generous and accommodating foreign firms." Well, first, Filatov was not speaking about commodity producers as a class, but only of those who took part in the Federation of Commodity Producers' third congress in Cheboksary under the chairmanship of Yuriy Skovkov. And after all, this gathering did not express the opinion of all producers of Russian goods, but only the opinion of some of them. Second, the Presidential Staff leader was not writing even about individual commodity producers, but only about those taking part in the conciliation process. And criticism of their behavior by no means implies dislike not only for the signatories to the Treaty, but for all commodity producers in general as well.

In seeking to represent the leader of the Presidential Staff as opposed to Russian commodity producers, Mr. Glazyev at the same time poses as an active champion of their interests. But at the same time he skillfully avoids the main question: On behalf of which producers does he speak? In fact he is trying to express the interests not of the mass of Russian commodity producers, but only of that portion which has united around Yuriy Skokov, of no little fame—that is to say, a narrow group of the production complex.

That is the subtlety of political legerdemain, whereby a temporary demagogic effect can be achieved by manipulating terms, by telling the gullible man in the street not quite the whole story. After all, everyone knows that there is no such thing as a homogeneous mass of commodity producers. The representatives of this category of Russian industry have various interests, various tasks, and various avenues of activity. Therefore, having convened a congress of commodity producers and putting yourself forward as their apologist, please specify, for the sake of propriety and clarity, on behalf of which producers you are speaking.

There is a neat phrase about the Federation of Commodity Producers, which malicious tongues ascribe to the last premier of the former USSR, Pavlov: "The FCP is a terrorist organization imposing by force on consumers goods which no one wants." And after all, it is well known that Mr. Glazyev speaks in the name of machine builders, that is to say, one of the most unproductive sectors of Russian industry. One of the most economically unprofitable sectors, and one which produces by no means the best products in the world. It is this which in fact determines his stance. This gives grounds to speak of the State Duma chairman as an out-and-out lobbyist. So he claims in his article that "Russian goods have seen their share of the market fall from 80 to 50 percent in the past three years, while industrial investments have been reduced almost fourfold." That is bad, and, in Glazyev's opinion, an indication that the president, his staff, and the government disregard the interests of industrialists. To be more exact, the interests of national producers.

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Is this really the case? First, it is not true on the most banal reckoning. Both presidential edicts and government decisions in support of national production have been published. Second, it is not so from the viewpoint of higher considerations. If you are not a lobbyist but a respectable producer (and Glazyev indignantly disowns lobbyism), that means that you should think first and foremost not about who produces a product, but about who consumes it. Then your interest is national in the widest sense of the term, and you are acting like a patriot. But Glazyev says not a word about people, about their opportunities and desires for acquiring commodities. Then again—what does suporting the national commodity producer mean? Everyone knows the real state our industry finds itself in. Part of it is uncompetitive, part of it cannot adapt to the market, some enterprises simply hang like a dead weight around society's neck. In these conditions proper support for commodity producers, if it is to be long term and geared toward success, and not the support of the lobbyist—that is to say, unprofitable—means the creation of conditions in which this entire multifaceted complex is transformed into a competitive, efficient, complex manufacturing goods which are needed and making a profit.

What should this mean in practice? Above all—support for those sectors which, being already competitive today, will soon become leaders not only in the country but also in the world. Second, it means helping those production units which can be converted, and which can and want to get themselves up and running on the tracks of the market economy. As for those which are completely without prospects, which cannot adapt to modern management conditions, the sacred duty of both the president and the government, as the exponents of the interest of the whole of society, is, to be sure, not to help them to continue to drain funds and hang like a dead weight round society's neck, but to help those who work in those industries to transform themselves with the minimum social losses, to take on a new quality. This is why the proposal of Mr. Glazyev and other active lobbyists that help be given to commodity producers who are inefficient is tantamount to asking a doctor to help a cancerous tumor to thrive. Real aid to producers means supporting strong production units and offering social support to the workers employed in the weak sectors in order to help them restructure themselves.

The lobbyism of Glazyev and his backers is accompanied by the populist argument that the weak are the embodiment of the interests of industry as a whole. This is an insular, narrow policy.

The president and the government are geared to structural reform and see its implementation as the principal way of helping industrial producers. That is a state, national policy.

We have a clash between two policies, one of which expresses truly national, strategic interests, the other of which reflects the interests of the objectively backward section of the production sector.

As an economist, as a professional, Mr. Glazyev cannot help but understand this. To deliver fiery speeches in defense of nonviable production is permissible in a man with just an elementary education whom someone has offended. But a man who has been a minister and who apparently understands the problem—sincerely speaking, these are no laughing matters. This can only mean that either the man is absolutely unprofessional, or that he is seriously engaged in lobbying for weak sectors and in political demagoguery. Since it must not be said of a former minister that he doesn't understand a damn thing, that leaves only one the second explanation—he is an out-and-out lobbyist.

Whereabouts is Glazyev nonetheless right? The ex-minister is undoubtedly right when he suggests that the president and the government should protect and help Russian enterprises.

But how would he like to achieve this goal? Very simply—by returning to the old (Soviet) model of directly funding backward enterprises. He has a burning wish to live, work in, and manage production in a zone of socialist welfare: with the aid of preferential credits and direct investment.

Probably, something of these methods should be used even today. But the state—and even the badly educated schoolboy has begun to understand this—is conducting a different policy, proceeding not on the basis of the ambitions of individual comrades, but guided by whether or not there is sufficient money in the state coffers. Glazyev advocates that everything, even doomed production units, should be helped with money which we do not have, that is to say, by increasing the budget deficit.

Passing off his narrow group interest for the national interest is the classic, universal and perennial trick of the lobbyist. It is the birthmark of lobbyism. Only thus can support be won from structures which express truly national interests—the president, the government, and the Duma. This is the economic goal. And the political goal is absolutely clear: to enter the hierarchy of power on the support of backward sectors and to receive his own personal slice of the power politics cake. Unprofessional criticism, not on truly national lines? Criticism just because I am not in the government? You call this lobbyism, cynicism? Go ahead, for God's sake. But when I am sitting in my government office, I will begin to talk differently. The main thing is to prevent structural reform. Here is the key: drawing support from the most backward structures in industry, satisfying narrow group interests at the expense of everyone else. Then things will be fine, the government will be right. It is somehow rather scary to strike directly at the president, so it is necessary to say that the leader of the Presidential Staff—whose opinion, incidentally, the president does not share—is to blame for everything. Once again, the tried-and-trusted method in any political or any other sort of scrap—you strike not at the strong but at their ministers; you strike a deal, as the saying goes.

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As simple as the good old dependable ruble [prosto kak zheleznyy rubl].

Economic Issues

Reportage on Oil Spill in Siberia

Attempts Made To 'Conceal' Spill

LD2610134994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign media, in particular the BBC and the respectable U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES are sounding the alarm, asserting that a big ecological disaster has happened in the Komi Republic in connection with the break in the oil pipeline there.

Our organizations, such as the Ministry of [Civil Defense], Emergencies [and Natural Disasters], the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources [MinPriroda] and the KomiNeft company either remain silent or attempt to minimize the scale of the event.

What is the situation? Over to Nikolay Agayants:

[Agayants] It has happened before in our society. It seems that today the Russian departments responsible for environmental measures are again much more worried not by the actual ecological situation in Komi but by their own image in the civilized world. This is the reason for the obvious differences in the figures for the amount of fuel that has poured out of the oil pipeline. For instance, MinPriroda asserts that it is 60,000 [metric] tonnes. According to the Ministry of Emergencies, it is 30,000 tonnes, while the people from the KomiNeft concern altogether believe that the spill amounts to only 14,000 tonnes, not the 300,000 tonnes that THE NEW YORK TIMES reported.

By the way, only after an offer of ecological aid was made on behalf of Vice President Gore did our officials finally move, and on 25 October a state commission specially formed for this purpose left for the region of the disaster.

By no means do I exclude the possibility that foreign oil magnates and octopuses wish to gain access to the sources of our black gold and have chosen this disaster as a pretext for this purpose. But it is suspicious that KomiNeft attempted to conceal what had actually happened, and that in the actions of other services and departments one notices an Olympic calm.

Experts unanimously point to the ecological fragility of the tundra and the extreme danger of any pollution specifically in the northern region.

One would very much like to hope that the famous bourgeois media have again made a fool of themselves by exaggerating a trivial oil spill in Komi up to the size of an ecological disaster, but after Chernobyl one is nagged by doubts.

Komineft Never Sought Foreign Aid

LD2610125894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1146 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Komineft oil corporation has never asked for foreign aid in clearing the aftermath of the oil main breakdown in Northern Russia, according to a high-ranking spokesman for the Komi Government.

Several Western publications reported that the leadership of the Komi Republic had appealed to Western companies for help.

The spokesman admitted that Conoco Corp. (USA) had offered assistance in an ecological study of the oil spill area, but no forms of international financial or technical aid were in question.

The General Director of Komineft Valentin Leonidov assured the Komi Government on Tuesday [25 October] that the defects on the 52d km of the Vozei-Golovnye Sooruzhenia pipeline would be fully repaired by 1 December, and the environmental consequences of the accident would be removed by 1 April 1995. The Federal Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources claims that the breakdown resulted in the spill of 30,000 tonnes of an oil and water mixture. The corporation reports the loss of 14,000 tonnes of oil.

Komi Government experts estimate the damage done by the environmental disaster at 60 billion rubles. Meanwhile, some sources claim that as much as 300,000 tonnes of oil spilled and the operation would require 350 billion rubles.

Since 20 October Komineft has organized daily aerial filming of the disaster area.

NEW YORK TIMES Reports Refuted

LD2610105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Russian newspapers comment on Wednesday [26 October] on American press reports that a major ecological disaster took place in the Komi Republic (member of the Russian federation) near the city of Usinsk.

It was caused by a rupture of an oil pipeline driven from the Vezey oilfield and a constituent part of the Komineft system. According to the NEW YORK TIMES newspaper, two million barrels or 300,000 tons of oil spilled.

The SEGODNYA (TODAY) newspaper which turned to the Ministry for Emergencies for information, reports in its issue on Wednesday that, according to the Ministry for Emergencies, indeed, a rupture of the oil pipeline

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took place in Komi on October 1. However, the scale of the oil spill does not fully conform to data published by the NEW YORK TIMES.

The newspaper writes that the 720-millimeter pipeline leaked in the area of Usinsk long ago, since February. There were many cracks at a stretch of 42 kilometers, from which oil spouted.

To prevent the spread of oil on the ground, oilmen surrounded the place with an earth dyke. An autumn shower washed away the dyke on the night of September 30, and oil rushed outside the dyke.

The area of the spill amounted to 68 square kilometers. Oil got into the small rivers Ussa and Kolva (width 8-10 meters) emptying into the Pechora. Thickness of oil film in river backwaters reached ten centimeters.

The headquarters of Komi Republic civil defence reported that there is no threat to the Pechora river as a result of measures taken by civil defence. However, analysts express apprehensions that various sources estimate differently the quantity of spilled oil.

The Ministry of Nature Protection quotes 60,000 tons. According to the Ministry for Emergencies, the figure stands 30,000, while the Komineft concern claimed that the spill amounts only to 14,000 tons.

In any case, all these data are far from the figure of two million barrels cited by the NEW YORK TIMES.

According to information from Mr. Nuikin, chief of the headquarters of Komi Republic civil defence, all cracks on the pipeline were repaired by October 18. Work to do away with the consequences of the disaster was suspended due to the advent of frost (down to minus 10 degrees centigrade) and snowfall.

"Specialists at the Emergencies Ministry regard the spill as a serious event, but they are in no way inclined to call the breakdown near Usinsk a global ecological disaster," the newspaper continues.

"Russian experts are surprised that the NEW YORK TIMES article appeared several weeks after the event. However, an expert group from the Emergencies Ministry flew to Usinsk last night on a fact-finding mission to check the American daily's information and to estimate the scale of the spill," the newspaper concludes.

In turn, the IZVESTIYA newspaper writes that "large fines are, no doubt, in store for the Komineft concern, the size of which will be increased due to its attempts to conceal the fact of an ecological disaster.

"Komineft pledged to replace the faulty 52 kilometers by December 1, 1994 and to do away with all the consequences of the breakdown by April 1, 1995."

The newspaper stresses that "it is very disappointing for us that we paid attention to the disaster only after Americans raised a ballyhoo." The Ardalinskoye oil depost is situated not far from Usinsk. It is being developed jointly with the Conoco company for the first time.

It was Americans that expressed alarm over the ecological situation in the region, and a proposal was received from U.S. Vice President Albert Gore to render ecological assistance.

Only following these developments, a government commission was set up, which flew to the area of Usinsk.

Paper's Report Seen as Exaggerated

MK2610103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Galichin under the "Ecology" rubric: "Oil From Damaged Pipeline Threatens Pechora. This Report Came From New York"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy are discussing with their Russian counterparts the possibility of U.S. experts' participating in eliminating the effects of a large oil spill from a pipeline in the Republic of Komi, THE NEW YORK TIMES has reported. [passage omitted]

SEGODNYA has asked the Ministry for Emergency Situations [MES] to comment on this report. According to the MES Control Center, a pipeline accident in the Republic of Komi did take place, but... on 1 October of this year. Moreover, the scale of the accident was not quite in line with the data reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES. The oil pipeline, with a diameter of 720 mm, had been leaking for a long time now, since last February. In a 42-km-long sector, lots of blowholes have emerged from which oil poured onto the ground. In order to stop it from spreading over the ground, oilmen girdled the spillage site with an earth dam. A heavy rainfall on the night of 1 October washed away the earth barrier, and oil burst through the dam. The spillage area was 68 square km large. Oil found its way into the small rivers of Ussa and Kolva (8 to 10 meters wide), which flow into the Pechora. The oil slick in backwater areas was 10 cm thick. The civil defense staff of the Republic of Komi reported that following rescue work, there is no real threat to the Pechora. What puts one on the alert, however, is that various sources give different estimates of the quantity of oil spilled onto the ground. For instance, the Nature Preservation Ministry speaks about 60,000 tonnes, the MES says it is half that, while according to the Komineft concern only 14,000 tonnes were spilled. At any rate, all these numbers are far from the 2 million barrels (over 300,000 tonnes) reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES. [passage omitted]

MES specialists see the spill as a serious occurrence but they are far from calling the Usinsk accident a global environmental disaster. Russian experts were surprised by the fact that this report was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES several weeks after the accident. To be on the safe side, however, a MES mission left for Usinsk last

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night to check the U.S. newspaper's information on the ground and to assess for themselves the scale of the accident.

Canadian Radio Reports Spill

LD2510220494 Montreal Radio Canada International in English 2100 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are conflicting reports about an oil spill in northern Russia. [Words indistinct] the United States says it is an environmental disaster. Russia [words indistinct] (?playing it down) but they acknowledge the spill began as early as February. The NEW YORK TIMES report said about 300 million liters of oil have leaked from a [word indistinct] pipeline in [words indistinct]. Although the leak began months ago, a dyke built to contain the spill burst in the last few days. The oil spill has reached a tributary of the Pechora river near the city of Usinsk and it is continuing to advance.

Spill Said Exaggerated by Western Media

LD2510213394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last few days Western media has been carrying numerous reports on the oil pipeline accident near the town of Usinsk in the Republic of Komi. Journalists and officials are speaking about a major oil spill and even about an ecological catastrophe. Olga Sergeyeva, our correspondent in Komi, maintains, however, that things are not so dramatic.

[Begin Sergeyeva recording] The Republic of Komi is seriously concerned about the uproar in the Western press regarding the oil pipeline accident near Usinsk. The real picture is as follows. Early in October, after an accident on the oil pipeline linking the Vozey deposit with the main facilities in the town of Usinsk, 14,000 tonnes of petroleum products were discharged on the banks of the Kolva River, according to specialists from a local environment protection branch. Sections of the forest-tundra in the basin of the northern River of Ussa were polluted. Ecologists have rated the catastrophe on the second grade of accepted international norms, which implies damage to the environment amounting to several million dollars. Specialists have agreed unequivocally that the accident was a result of the federal authorities' policy toward the fuel and power engineering complex. This year there was no money to pay for the routine replacement of 45 km of oil pipeline which had reached the end of its service life of 20 years. At the same time, the confusion in the Western press about the names of Komi rivers allegedly polluted by oil and the ten-fold exaggeration of the extent of the actual discharge leads one to assume that Western financial and industrial circles would not mind trying to get Russia to pay fines for the secret dumping of waste by Scandinavian countries in northern seas. [end recording]

Clean Up Operations Continue

LD2510174394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS corrrespondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—This evening a team of specialists from the Russian Ministry for Emergencies is flying to the site of oil pipeline accident near the town of Usinsk (the Republic of Komi). They are expected to map out the measures needed to complete the cleaning up of the area polluted by petroleum products, ITAR-TASS was told at the Ministry for Emergencies' press service.

The operations were interrupted on the 18 October by cold weather and snow.

On 1 October, near the town of Usinsk, heavy rains washed away a dam around the oil pipeline which had been damaged as long ago as February 1994. According to the information available to the Ministry for Emergencies' press service, about 30,000 tonnes of oil was spilled, spreading across an area of 68 sq. km. The oil got into the local Kolva and Ussa Rivers, but there are no settlements or water intake facilities on their banks; in Kolva creeks the film of oil was 10 cm deep. Both rivers are tributaries of the Pechora River. However, its basin has not been polluted, according to the results of a survey.

By 4 October the dam was restored, operations to bank up the Pechora were carried out, and concrete enclosures to receive oil were set up.

According to the Ministry for Emergencies, over 140 people and 40 units of equipment took part in eliminating the consequences of the accident. Over two and a half weeks of operations 1,134 cubic meters of oil-polluted ground and 10,018 cubic meters of oil-containing liquid were collected and removed.

Komineft Tried To 'Cover Up' Oil Spill

MM2510162094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Oil Spill Hits Russian Tundra, But the Americans Sound the Alarm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has become known that a major ecological disaster has taken place in Komi, not far from Usinsk, involving the rupture of an oil pipeline which runs from the Vezey deposit and enters the "Komineft" system. According to preliminary information, the quantity of oil spilled is estimated at 2 million barrels, or 300,000 tonnes. Experts find it hard to say whether there has ever been a bigger pipeline accident in the history of oil extraction.

The city of Usinsk is located 300 km from the Arctic Ocean coast and 50 km from Pechora [city], 100 km from the Arctic Circle. The landscape is typical of the

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Far North—lakes and impassable marshes. I visited this area quite recently, and I remember how the specialists, with one voice, noted the ecological vulnerability of the tundra and the extremely dangerous nature of any industrial pollution incidents in this specific region. Ecological problems, among other things, are exacerbated by the local population's dependence on their environment.

And so it proved. According to IZVESTIYA's information, the ecological disaster in the Pechora basin became known thanks to local fishermen who discovered traces of oil in their nets. The "Komineft" joint-stock company actually tried to cover up the accident. It is hard to believe that the rupture of the oil pipeline took place 17 August, yet it was not reported until 13 September. The oil was spilling onto the land until 6 September. As of now, the rivers Usa, Kolva, and Khatayakha are severely polluted. Even in the village of Ust-Usa, which is on the [river] Pechora, the oil slick is up to 5 meters wide. In the Kolva, the level of pollution is 20 times above the maximum permissible concentration.

The ecological disaster in the Pechora basin poses several questions. Why did "Komineft" eventually decide to inform local organs of the accident? According to certain reports, the oilmen, to avoid a scandal, tried to get smart and to pass off as the major accident a minor fault that occurred in September and was eliminated in a few hours. But all the same, it remains unclear: How come the numerous ecological services, which incorporate satellite monitoring of the routes of oil pipelines, failed to notice such a significant leak of petroleum products?

All the appearances suggest that "Komineft" was hoping that the oil would be filtered out in the numerous marshes. One marsh was dammed up, without the knowledge of the local oversight bodies. However, the rupture, it transpires, happened not in one place but several, and 52 km of pipeline need to be replaced. The huge scale of the leak—which is eight times bigger than what was formerly considered the biggest accident, in the Exxon company's oil fields on the Alaska coast in 1989—made it impossible to hush up.

Without doubt, "Komineft" can expect substantial penalty fines, the severity of which will be increased because of the attempt to conceal the fact of the ecological disaster. "Komineft" pledges to replace the damaged 52 km by 1 December 1994 and to eliminate all the consequences of the accident by 1 April 1995. But the ecological monitoring bodies themselves cannot sleep peacefully when, as has become clear, it is not so very difficult to mislead them.

The fact that the disaster was only noticed after the Americans started shouting about it is also far from gratifying for us. Not far from Usinsk is the Ardalinskoye deposit, which is being developed for the first time jointly with the Conoco company. It was the Americans who sounded the alarm about the ecological state of the region, and an offer of ecological assistance was made in the name of U.S. Vice President Gore. Only after that was a government commission formed; it set off for the Usinsk region on 25 October.

The impression is created that what mainly concerns Russian departments responsible for nature conservation measures is not the actual ecological safety of our territories, but purely the reputation of these bureaucratic structures in the eyes of the civilized world. And once the rustle of greenbacks can be heard, even the idlest become active.

Specialists Depart for Usinsk

LD2510161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—A team of specialists from the Russian Ministry for Emergency situations will go to Usinsk tonight to help finish the collection of oil spill in the area, sources at the ministry's press center told ITAR-TASS.

The work was suspended on October 18 because of cold weather and snowfalls.

The dike around an oil pipeline damaged in February 1994 was washed out by pouring rains on October 1, 1994. Some 30,000 tones of oil spilled at an area of 68 square kilometers and into the local rivers of Kolva and Ussa. There are no populated localities or water inlets on the rivers' banks. The oil film was ten centimeters thick in creeks of the kolva river. Both rivers come into the Pechora River, however the latter was not polluted.

The dike was restored by October 4. The Pechora River was banked up and concrete barriers were erected to collect oil. The operation involved over 140 people and 40 machinery pieces. A total of 1,134 cubic meters of oil-polluted ground and 10,018 cubic meters of oil-containing liquid have been collected and transported away from the area within the past two and a half weeks.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Draft Budget

LD2510125794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1229 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin met today in the Kremlin to exchange views on the report on the draft federal budget for 1995 to be presented by the head of the Russian Federation Government in the State Duma on 27 October. According to an announcement from the press service of the Russian president, they also discussed the government's liaison with constituent parts of the Russian Federation and with trade unions.

Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin paid particular attention to the issue of nonpayments and ways to pay

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off the government's arrears on wages. They also discussed some personnel matters involving several ministries and departments, notes the press service of the head of state.

Edict on Economic, Technical Cooperation Abroad

MM2510165594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 4

[Edict No. 1166 of the Russian Federation Government "On Measures To Develop the Russian Federation's Economic and Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries," dated 14 October 1994 and signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the purposes of expanding exports of complete equipment and services for projects being constructed abroad with the participation of Russian organizations, as an important area of Russia's foreign economic activity, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy, with the participation of interested ministries and departments, are to prepare a concept of the Russian Federation's foreign economic policy for the period through the year 2000 in the sphere of giving technical assistance to foreign countries in the construction of industrial enterprises and other projects and to submit it for examination to the Russian Federation Government in the second quarter of 1995, providing therein specific proposals on measures of state support for Russian participants in economic and technical cooperation with foreign countries.

2. The Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building, the Russian Federation Committee for the Chemical and Petrochemical Industries, the Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, and other interested ministries and organizations, with the participation of the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, are to draw up in the first quarter of 1995 specific sectoral programs to develop exports of machinery and technical output [mashinnotekhnicheskaya produktsiya]—including complete deliveries and services for technical aid projects abroad—and measures to enhance its competitiveness on the world market.

3. In shaping the draft federal budget for the coming year the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs are to stipulate in it the volumes of credit funds granted to foreign countries for the purposes of giving economic and technical assistance in the construction, reconstruction, and modernization of industrial enterprises and other projects, with due regard for the international treaties of the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

4. It is to be laid down that the procedure for using the budget funds necessary for ensuring the funding of deliveries of complete equipment and for rendering services in the construction and reconstruction of projects by means of state credits granted in accordance with intergovernmental agreements on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation is determined by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics.

5. It is to be laid down that all settlements for deliveries with organizations and enterprises of the Russian Federation, regardless of the forms of ownership, and the fulfillment of work and services with regard to giving technical assistance by means of state credits of the Russian Federation are conducted in rubles.

6. It is to be laid down that decisions with regard to the Russian Federation Government's granting of guarantee obligations to the Russian Export-Import Bank and to other agent banks of the Russian Federation Government for the registration of guarantees to foreign clients or foreign banks relating to the obligations of Russian organizations when they participate in international dealings and carry out contracts for the construction of projects abroad are adopted following a representation from the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics on the basis of appeals by interested ministries, departments, and other Russian organizations.

7. The Russian Federation Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS Member States, jointly with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and interested ministries and departments, is to hold talks in the first half of 1995 with the CIS member states on the main principles of cooperation in the construction of projects in third countries and, in accordance with the results, is to submit agreed proposals to the Russian Federation Government.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government 14 October 1994 Moscow No. 1166

$3 Billion a Year Lost Through Trade Restrictions

LD2510150394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1316 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By BIZNES-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Russia loses about $3 billion a year because of the restrictions some foreign countries place on Russian imports, Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov told the BIZNES-TASS correspondent.

If our Western partners do not start easing their antidumping demands with respect to Russian goods, then for our part we shall be forced to take measures to balance our relations with these countries, Davydov commented.

Russia is the only country in the world where there are no restrictions on the quantity of goods imported, Oleg Davydov stressed. Discrimination regarding access for Russian goods to foreign markets, in the form of restrictive duties and imposition of quotas can only cause an adverse reaction from the Russian Government.

The demands for our market to be fully open and for substantial tariff concessions are acceptable only for countries with a market economy, whereas many of these countries have not even accorded us the status of a market-oriented country with a transitional economy, the minister said.

Oleg Davydov thinks it is essential to hold multilateral consultations and resolve the problem of access for Russian goods to foreign markets.

Large Oil Companies Agree To Form Export Union

LD2510175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 25 (TASS)—Russia's ten largest oil companies have resolved to set up a Union of Russian oil exporters.

Well-informed sources at the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations told BUSINESS-TASS about it on Tuesday [25 October].

The main goal of the Union consists in coordinating activities of its member companies on foreign markets and maintaining a uniform price policy.

The time has come when Russian exporters began to realize that it was impossible to create oil export infrastructure on an individual basis.

"The period of making solitary races with one's pail of oil to a foreign market is over," Oleg Davydov, Russian minister for foreign economic relations, told a news conference on Monday.

"It is necessary to be present at the market in a civilized and professional manner, having sufficient production and financial capabilities," he said.

Constituent assembly of participants in the Union of Russian exporters of oil and oil products was scheduled for November 1, 1994.

Davydov was nominated candidate for the position of the union's chairman.

Military Issues

Defense Minister Does Not Intend To Resign

LD2510144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1411 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khabarovsk, 25th October—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev does not intend to resign. He stated this at a news conference today in Khabarovsk on returning from the island of Iturup where regimental tactical training exercises were held.

Grachev admitted, however, that there were forces that would like to make him resign, but he himself believed that he was coping with the difficult ministerial burden. But if the president takes a decision about his resignation, then he will accept it without taking offense. Only one problem does concern him—who will become minister? If it is a civilian, then many officers and generals will leave the army, said Grachev.

Tomorrow, the defense minister plans to depart for Kamchatka and then Ulan-Ude. During his trip, in addition to checking the combat readiness of troops, diverse problems ranging from providing aid to those affected by natural disasters to defining strategic areas in the conversion of defense sector enterprises are being tackled in conjunction with the region's authorities.

Grachev Against Civilian Defense Minister

MK2610105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Oleg Kryuchek under the "Defense" rubric: "Gen. Grachev: 'Army Will Not Take Orders From Civilians.' Minister Demands Stop to Conversion and Start Massive Arms Trade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a press conference in Khabarovsk, Defense Minister General Grachev began by stating his view of the remark by Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, about the reforms currently under way in the armed forces. "Gen. Lebed commands only an inferior army, for which reason I would not take seriously his utterances about army reform being a carnival booth. There was a time when we did pay much attention to his army. Today, however, this question has been struck from the agenda," Mr. Grachev advised.

Next, as if anticipating questions on the future State Duma hearings and on the slaying of Dmitriy Kholodov, the minister stated that today's moral and psychological state of the Army is very difficult, which he could see while touring the units of the Far Eastern Military

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District. Rumors of the minister's resignation have been off and on in newspaper pages for three years now, and he hopes to endure today's gossip about the military's involvement in the killing of Dmitriy Kholodov without any special harm to his health. Also, Mr. Grachev reiterated his desire to go to court to uphold his honor and dignity.

Next the minister made several statements characterizing him as a farsighted politician and diligent economist. Mr. Grachev said that, having consulted a number of military district and fleet commanders, he is absolutely confident that it is senseless to appoint a civilian to the position of defense minister because no such thing has ever happened in Russia. Besides, generals would not take orders from someone with no experience in controlling the military. "If the country does not need an army, this step may be quite justified," the minister believes.

As for the future of the military-industrial complex, Pavel Grachev talked about the need to stop totally the military conversion process and start a massive trade in arms. He also told the journalists about close contacts with the heads of the military departments of China and South Korea aimed at creating in the Asia-Pacific region a collective global security system. However, according to the minister, the talks "in this direction are moving with great difficulty." Mr. Grachev wound up his statement by inviting the journalists to a conference attended by the heads of the Far Eastern administration right after the press conference.

Kokoshin on 1995 Defense Funding

MM2610092794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Army Needs Normal Funding"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation Ministry of Defense—Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense, expressed in a conversation with journalists the hope that when the finishing touches are put to the budget for 1995 before its presentation to the State Duma, full account will be taken of the requirements of the Armed Forces, as reflected in the report by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, to the Russian Government's latest session.

In effect since 1992 expenditure on defense has been reduced, according to Kokoshin, at least fivefold when sequestrations, modifications to the state defense order, and other decisions are taken into account.

For its part, Andrey Kokoshin noted, the Ministry of Defense is exerting the maximum effort in order to enhance the effectiveness of funds allocated to defense, their concentration along the most important avenues, and so forth.

The Armed Forces are today going through a difficult period. This is largely due to their chronic underfunding even within the framework of the legally ratified budget. Hence moral support from society, constructive attention to the needs of the Armed Forces and the defense industry, and understanding of their problems are exceptionally important for the Army and Navy today, Andrey Kokoshin stressed.

Weather Observation Satellite Launched from Plesetsk

MM2510112594 Moscow NTV Television in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Oct 94

[From the "Today" newscast: Video report from Plesetsk by Aleksandr Gerasimov and Anatoliy Vaskin]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1730 hours this evening a "Tsiklon" launcher lifted off at Plesetsk to place an "Okean-01" satellite in orbit. This work was carried out under the personal supervision of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The space system for real-time observation of the world ocean attracted such close attention of the No.2 man in Russia as a result of the total lack of warning about the tsunami which hit the Kuril Islands. The high toll in human life and material damage could have been avoided had the Russian Government not suspended work in this field two years ago to save funds.

Aleksandr Uspenskiy, director of the Planeta Science and Production Association, who placed the order for the satellite, believes that the expenditure—more than 1 billion rubles—will be justified.

[Uspenskiy to camera] This is because the old network—aerial surveys and so on—is being cut back for well known financial reasons and satellites are virtually the only source of this type of information.

[Gerasimov over closeup of launcher] Meanwhile, according to representatives of the Military Space Forces who carried out today's launch, the "Tsiklon" launchers which are produced in Ukraine, and the highly toxic substance heptyl which is used as fuel, will have been totally forgotten by launch teams by the beginning of the next millenium. It cannot be ruled out that after that Ukraine will cease to be a space power.

Aleksandr Gerasimov and Anatoliy Vaskin reporting for NTV from the flight control center.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Approves Economic Treaty

LD2510122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—The Federation Council today approved the law "on ratification of a treaty to create an economic union," passed by the State Duma on 7 October.

The Russian president's note to the Federal Assembly emphasizes that the economic union is being set up with the aim of creating conditions for the stable development of economies of those states signatory to the treaty in the interests of raising living standards. The economic union will also create general, economic partnerships on the basis of market relations and guarantee free movement of goods, services, capital, and workers.

Presenting the law, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin reported that the treaty had been ratified by all the CIS countries. It was signed in Moscow in September last year by the heads of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belorussia [Belarus], Kazakhstan, Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan], Moldavia [Moldova], the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Georgia and Turkmenistan have joined the treaty.

Federation Council Ratifies Climate Convention

LD2510201294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—Russia became the 65th country to ratify the UN convention on climatic changes. The Federation Council approved today a federal law on the ratification of this framework Convention the State Duma sent to it.

According to the conclusion of the Federation Council's Social Policy Committee, the aim of this legal act is to "stabilize the concentration of hothouse gases in earth's atmosphere at a safe level." The industrial activities of industrially developed countries have led to an accumulation of a huge amount of hothouse gases in the atmosphere. These include carbon dioxide up to 61 percent, and methane up to 23 percent. If no measures are taken to reduce the emission of gases the human race can expect dangerous consequences. For instance, in the southern regions of Russia the steppes will dry up and there will be continuous drought, and in the mild climate zone optimal conditions for the spread of diseases and parasites will develop.

The Russian government has set up an interdepartmental commission on the problems of climatic changes to ensure coordination in carrying out the country's obligations set down by the convention, in particular in saving energy and reducing the number of power- consuming manufactures, in channelling funds into forestry, and in developing new technologies.

Duma Decree on All-Russia Rural Assembly Demands

MM2510114394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 4

[Decree No. 248-IGD of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma issued in Moscow on 12 October and signed by State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin: "On the Economic Demands of Participants in the All-Russia Rural Assembly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having heard the report by M.I. Lapshin, leader of the Agrarian Party of Russia faction in the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, on the results of holding the All-Russia Rural Assembly, the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly decrees:

The Russian Federation Government is to be instructed:

—to ensure this year's funding of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex within the limits of the appropriations being channeled to these purposes from the federal budget in 1994, no lower than the average indicators for the national economy;

—when drafting the federal budget for 1995 and the financial-credit, price, investment, and tax policies, to take into maximum consideration the economic demands adopted by the participants in the All-Russia Rural Assembly (appended) [appendix not published];

—to inform the State Duma before 26 October 1994 of the measures taken to implement this decree.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly
[Dated] 12 October 1994

Duma Seeks Government Changes, Not Resignations

MM2510132794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Heated Thursday Ahead"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma will not vote for the government's resignation. This was the conclusion drawn by Valentin Kovalev, deputy chairman of the chamber, following yesterday's Duma Council session. He recalled that a faction of the Democratic Party of Russia is insisting on a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers, and it confirmed its unbending decision at the Duma Council session.

"I think that those who would like to make the government resign will simply not gain enough votes, although I would not rule out the possibility of a big polarization of passions during the sitting," Valentin Kovalev said. "It is another matter that the majority of factions will undoubtedly make criticisms of the government—I do not know of a single one which has no complaints to make," he noted. According to Valentin Kovalev, the

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factions will demand an amendment of the government line, and also adjustments in Cabinet personnel.

In this connection the chamber deputy chairman announced that all factions and deputies' groups had been asked to put forward their considerations on government personnel. "As these proposals come into the Duma Council, we will immediately inform the president of them," Valentin Kovalev said, although he refused to name anyone in particular.

"We have a heated Thursday ahead, but I am sure that, in the end, the Cabinet of Ministers will leave the Duma with confidence and enriched by new ideas," Valentin Kovalev stressed.

Rybkin Expects Membership in Council of Europe

LD2510202894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1858 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] St. Petersburg October 25 TASS—Russia can be admitted to the Council of Europe in 1995, Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin told a news conference on results of Duma participation in a meeting of the committee for relations with european non-member countries of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly. He said that the committee meeting "started the final stage of this process".

In the words of Rybkin, reasons cited by the opponents of Russian membership in the Council of Europe is nothing but "political grumbling". Council experts who studied the Russian readiness for joining the Council of Europe noted drawbacks of the Russian legislation that may postpone the admission, said the Duma speaker. In his words, Russia knows about these drawbacks and working to overcome them, "but it is a difficult process, it takes time and cannot be the reason for unjustified delay of Russian admission to the organization".

He said he is confident the drawbacks can be eliminated more easily after Russia is admitted to the Council of Europe. Russia and the Council of Europe need each other, said the speaker. He stressed that the real partnership with the council will start only after Russia is admitted to the organization.

Regional Affairs

Plane Hijacked by 'Terrorist' in Dagestan

Hijacker Wants To Go to Iran

LD2610043794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0355 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Bulay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Oct— A YAK-40 aircraft, travelling from Makhachkala to Rostov, was hijacked by a terrorist on Tuesday [25 October] evening, it was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today by the operational duty officer of the Ministry for Emergency Situations. The aircraft took off from Makhachkala at 2203 hours. At 2216 hours, while in the air, the commander of the airliner received a demand from the terrorist to land. At 2223 hours the aircraft returned to the airport of the capital of Dagestan. Through the airliner's captain the terrorist is demanding $2 million and refueling of the aircraft and a flight to Iran.

There were 22 people on board the aircraft—17 passengers and five crew members. The terrorist let six of them go—three women, two children and one man. The hijacker of the airliner is armed with a military grenade from which the pin has been removed, the operational duty officer of the Ministry for Emergency Situations noted. At the present time the aircraft is standing at the end of the runway at the airport of Makhachkala. Subunits of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the special purpose troops have arrived at the scene of the incident. There is still no other news.

Embassy Asks Iran To Allow Plane To Land

LD2610093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0902 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Anchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct—According to reports, the Russian Embassy in Tehran asked Iranian authorities to allow the hijacked Russian aircraft to land on Iranian territory, if the need arises. The Iranians have not yet responded to this request.

Two Azeris Named as Hijackers

LD2610100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—The Yak-40 airliner in Makhachkala was hijacked by two Azeri nationals, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of the Russian Interior Ministry on Wednesday.

According to the "Youth" radio broadcasting station, they are Asif Kuliyev, 30, a resident of Agdam city, and Elton Metkhiy-Zade, 22, who lives in a dormitory in Baku.

The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Interior Ministry refused to confirm the names of the terrorists.

Dudayev Forces Fail To Capture Headquarters

LD2610090994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On 25 October, Dzhokhar Dudayev's armored detachment failed in its attempt to capture the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, where the headquarters of Ruslan Khasbulatov's peacekeeping group is

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located. An RIA correspondent learned this at the Moscow branch of the group's press center. Chechen elders avoided bloodshed; they came out to face Dudayev's troops and demanded that they should not take part in another act of fratricidal war. According to the press center, Dudayev's armored vehicles returned to Groznyy in an orderly fashion.

Initial Maritime Election Results Cited

954F0161A Vladivostok VLADIVOSTOK in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 2

[VLADIVOSTOK Political Section report: "The Electorate Ignored the Elections of 23 October"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *According to the data received by the kray election commission on the morning of 24 October, a Maritime Kray Duma was not elected on 23 October. The elections were valid in only 20 out of the 39 districts. The data on specific candidates will come in later. But it may be affirmed already that no more than 20 deputies have been elected, and the election of a minimum of 26 deputies (two-thirds of the number of seats) is needed for the Duma to commence business.*

As your VLADIVOSTOK correspondent was told at the kray election commission, the greatest voter activity was recorded in the rural areas of the kray. Of the 12 cities of the Maritime region, the elections were valid only in six (Dalnegorsk, Lesozavodsk, Spassk, Ussuriysk, Fokino [formerly Shkotovo-17], and Dalnerechensk).

The elections to the Vladivostok City Duma failed. Of the 22 districts, only two managed to secure a turnout of more than 25 percent. According to the data of 24 October, two deputies were elected: Vladimir Kovalevich and Georgiy Fadeyev. So the Vladivostok Duma cannot begin work, either.

Repeat elections are necessary, but they are not specified in the Provisional Statute on Elections to the Maritime Kray Duma and the Local Government Authorities. A decision of the head of the administration of the kray is needed for repeat elections. Yevgeniy Nazdratenko told your VLADIVOSTOK correspondent that he intends to hold the supplementary elections only next spring. This is, most likely, a realistic assessment of the current situation—the Maritimers would hardly turn out now.

Meanwhile, the political scientists and journalists are preparing an explanation of the failure of the fall election campaign, and one reason for the low turnout has become known. As your VLADIVOSTOK correspondent was told, the Dalenergo joint-stock company refused to end the lighting cutoff on election day. Even despite the fact that this request had been sent by Vice Governor Igor Lebedinets to Yuriy Basharov, general director of the power system, four days in advance, Dalenergo demanded monetary compensation for the overconsumption of fuel. Consequently, there was no light in the evening of 23 October at many of the kray's polling stations.

But this was just one of the reasons. The main one was the passive attitude of the electorate, which saw no point in more elections. Such election results in the Maritime region are unprecedented.

People Quitting Arctic Region After Supply Problems

MM2510140094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandra Shaytanova: "Containers Go North, But—Empty"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The Arctic; Vladivostok—This year Northerners will not receive one-fourth of needed goods because during the time navigation on the northern routes was still possible, suppliers delivered nothing to the base ports. [passage omitted]

Today there are still five ships belonging to the Far East Shipping Line, with nearly 30,000 tons of freight (18,000 tons of coal), on the northern route. It will be extremely difficult to deliver this, although there is a nuclear icebreaker operating in the East Arctic region.

The port of Pevek is the last hope. Convoys can still get through, albeit with enormous difficulty. However, the Far East Shipping Line's costs for such shipments have increased beyond all measure. The icebreakers have to pull every ship on steel "lines," and unloading drags on for weeks or months. At this time in the Arctic the seamen's heavy work has become downright hard labor and is very dangerous. In order to reinstate the constantly breaking "lines," teams of seamen on the icebreakers literally live at the stern, warming themselves at barrels of burning oil. The diesel fuel thickens with the cold and the machines break down....

In normal conditions, when navigation is taking place within the time period laid down by nature (and not the government), escorting ships from the eastern edge to Pevek takes just over 24 hours. Recently, the icebreaker Yermak spent five days conducting two hardened ice-class diesel ships (the Pioner Slavyanki and the Vladimir Arsenyev) to Chaunskaya Gulf. A powerful Arctic ship, the helicopter-carrier Vitus Bering, is making its way through the ice with the help of the icebreaker Admiral Makarov. The cost of such efforts in material terms is enormous. Yet at the beginning of the summer not only the Bering, but ordinary diesel ships could sometimes have "made a dash" to the destination without an ice escort. But there were no such ships in the North, since there was no freight.

This year Moscow has created conditions not merely for heroic deeds, but possibly even for superheroic ones, by extending navigation to 15 November.

But a certain worldly cunning can be perceived in the extension order. The Far East Shipping Line is thereby obliged to ship freight at navigation-period prices, that is, half what such shipments cost now. Once again, the

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state is shifting its duties to the North onto a private company—the "DVMP" [Far East Shipping Line] joint-stock company, which, incidentally, is already owed 25 billion rubles for Arctic shipments, including 7 billion for coal deliveries.

Government Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray told journalists on 10 October that the Northern shipments had taken place, that at the end of September the Northern regions were 95-percent supplied with coal, and that the Far North would be fully supplied with fuel by 15 October.

The figures indicate otherwise. What was the point of extending navigation by a further month, if everything had already been delivered?

Meanwhile, the Northerners are leaving their familiar places. Never before have diesel ships left the Arctic loaded "to the brim" with containers of household effects. Never before has the Far East Shipping Line brought such a strange cargo from the Maritime region's ports to the Arctic—empty containers. People are fleeing the North.

Kurgan Oblast Posts 'Record Low' Grain Harvest

MM2510144794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM column report under "In Brief" rubric: "Record Low Grain Harvest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recently-ended grain harvest in Kurgan Oblast is one of the lowest in recent years—9.4 quintals per hectare. The reason for the bad harvest was the acute shortage of expensive mineral fertilizers. One-ninth of the norm was applied to the grain crops, and this has led to a shortfall of an average of five quintals of grain per hectare.

Tyumen Oblast Harvest 'Lower Than Last Year'

MM2510133994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Vladislav Pavlenko: "Three Months' Worth of Grain in Granaries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyumen—Apart from the reliable old leader of the Tyumen fields—Zavodoukovskiy Rayon, where 30 quintals of grain per hectare were gathered on average—the yield of the fields is now much lower than last year. Today the average indicator is 13.8 quintals. The age-old misfortune of the Tyumen inhabitants is that they have very little wheat of a suitable quality for baking bread. Back in spring the oblast leadership concluded contracts with a lot of farms for the supply of wheat to the oblast food stocks, handing out decent advance payments and herbicides against the future settlement of accounts. But instead of the planned 100,000 tons, the peasants only handed in 42,000 to the grain reception centers. And even if they honor their commitments, the grain will only be enough to provide the Tyumen inhabitants with bread for three months.

The "Tyumenkhleboprodukt" Joint-Stock Company is now looking for an opportunity to buy grain in neighboring Omsk, Kurgan, and Orenburg Oblasts, as well as in Kazakhstan. The maximum payment for each tonne of grain in Tyumen is 165,000 rubles [R], and low quality grain is even bought at R115,000, but the neighbors are not agreeing to anything less than R210,000.

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International Affairs

Security Guarantees Sought To Join Nonproliferation Treaty

LD2510160294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Vladimir Medyany and Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev October 25 TASS—Ukraine will join the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, if the nuclear powers provide it real guarantees of security, Konstantin Grischenko, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Armament and Disarment Control Department said during a briefing in Kiev today.

Grischenko noted that Ukraine's joining the treaty, President Leonid Kuchma stands for, "is in the country's national interests." The diplomat said that the head of state has already passed on all necessary documents to the parliament. This question will be considered by appropriate commissions in the near future, he said.

"As is already known, the Ukrainian side has objections to the treaty's text. But all these issues are, in my opinion, not difficult to resolve," Konstantin Griscehnko explained.

The diplomat added that the question of joining the treaty was discussed during the visit to Kiev by Gloria Duffy, assistant to the U.S. deputy defense secretary this week. Problems of volumes and dates of providing American financial and technological aid during conversion of Ukraine's defence industry, and a cut and destruction of strategic nuclear weapons were discussed during Kiev meetings, he said.

Speaking during the briefing, Gloria Duffy, in particular, said that an offer of American assistance in the creation of Ukraine's own close-cycle nuclear fuel programme was made during talks with Ukrainian parliament's speaker Oleksandr Moroz.

The U.S. Government has already received offers from a number of American firms to construct a Ukrainian-U.S. enterprise for producing fuel for nuclear power plants. We will scrutinize these offers and the Ukrainian project of this purpose and will give a concrete reply within a month, Gloria Duffy noted.

Security Guarantees Consultations End in Paris

LD2610093394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian-French consultations have concluded in Paris. The main topic was granting national security guarantees to Ukraine by the nuclear states, particularly France, in the context of the forthcoming discussion by the Supreme Council of Ukraine's accession to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. The sides reached an understanding that Ukraine's accession to the treaty should without any doubt be synchronized with the simultaneous granting by Russia, the United States, Great Britain, and France of clear security guarantees for Ukraine.

The question of France's possible participation in the process of drafting a document on granting the relevant guarantees was discussed in detail.

Agreement With U.S. on Investments Ratified

LD2610114394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Council of Ukraine has resolved to ratify the agreement between Ukraine and the United States on the encouragement and mutual protection of investments signed on behalf of Ukraine on 4 September 1994 in Washington.

[signed] Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Kuchma Discusses Economic Cooperation With Ottawa

LD2510214094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2104 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ottawa October 26 (TASS)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, currently on a state visit to Canada, arrived in Toronto on Monday to meet Ontario Premier Robert Rae and discuss cooperation between Ontario and Ukraine. Rae said his government will render financial support to the Ukrainian market transformations.

Leonid Kuchma also met representatives of the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian diaspora.

Meanwhile in Ottawa Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet said the Canadian federal government will give Ukraine 23.8 million dollars as part of the program of technical assistance to the Ukrainian economic and political reforms. A total of ten millions will be used to support the Ukrainian private sector, including training of heads and personnel of small and medium ventures in market fundamentals and marketing.

Another 13.5 millions will be allocated to help the Ukrainian payments to the International Monetary Fund. A total of 2.3 million dollars are allocated for the delivery of technology for storage of industrial waste of some nuclear power plants within the framework of the previously-announced program of Canadian assistance to enhanced safety of Ukrainian nuclear power engineering.

Minister of Foreign Trade Roy Maclaren announced the issuance of a 20 million dollar additional credit for Ukraine.

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Foreign Minister on Priorities, Talks With Russia

WS2510130294 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 21 Oct 94 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Yosipovych Udovenko by Maksym Karas; place and date not given: "Kuchma Goes to the West, But the Sun Rises in the East?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Karas] Will Ukraine's foreign policy take an "eastward-bound direction" to full, not associated, membership in the CIS?

[Udovenko] What makes you ask the question in this way?

[Karas] Because it seems that Ukraine, during the first years of building its statehood, has set its eyes on the West and assumed the function of an iron curtain between Western countries and the "Eurasian area..."

[Udovenko] I see your point. I want to state that we are not changing the course of Ukraine's foreign policy, which was adopted by the former Supreme Council. What we need today is to arrange priorities that arose under the new circumstances. We put the normalization of relations with Russia in first place. The state of these relations has recently been unsatisfactory, definitely so. By now, an active process of talks is under way between the two countries. An agreement, which is currently being worked out, will include a wide range of questions.

The next priority is other CIS countries. Our relations, for example, with Georgia are at "zero level." But how closely our nations cooperated during the times of the USSR, how wide were the contacts in the humanitarian sphere! It is expected that at the CIS meeting in Moscow on 21 October, in particular, the signing of a full package of agreements with Uzbekistan will take place. The CIS is a commonwealth which should promote cooperation without infringing on sovereignty, neutrality, etc. It is a channel through which we should strengthen economic cooperation. I always recall the example of the Luhansk Locomotive Building Plant. It supplied its production to all the republics and was supported by 800 enterprises from the entire former USSR. Such ties cannot be restored today. We are going over to a market economy, and it is unprofitable for a manager of some plant, let us say, in the Zaporizhzhya region to export component parts from Siberia. However, certain forms of cooperation should be restored—in my opinion, those forms able to give an impulse to an economic rise without affecting the sovereignty of our states.

[Karas] Will Yeltsin's visit to Kiev take place this year? One has the impression that Russia waits for concessions from Ukraine and intentionally delays the bilateral meeting? What concessions is Ukraine ready to make?

[Udovenko] This is a difficult question, but not from the point of view of answering it. It is difficult because the process of talks is under way, and making them public does not conform with either diplomatic custom or diplomatic ethics. Publication of a draft agreement and an account of the Ukrainian delegation's work has considerably weakened our positions. Nobody will have any dealings with us if we continue to air the essence of talks, or diplomats' opinions and assessments regarding some disputable points. If there is a negotiating process under way, for example, between France and Germany, the usual response by diplomats is a "no comment" reply.

I want to say that three rounds of talks were already held, which is more than we planned. There will be a fourth round, too. The atmosphere is constructive; at least, we already know what the Russians want, and they know what our wishes are.

I look forward to a bilateral meeting between Kuchma and Yeltsin during the CIS summit in Moscow, where they may discuss the date of the Russian leader's visit to Kiev and the intensifying of work on the agreement.

[Karas] The top Ukrainian delegation is now going to Canada. What is your mission there?

[Udovenko] Besides accompanying the president, I will hold talks with Canada's Foreign Minister Ouellet, thus extending our contacts initiated at the UN session in New York. We highly appreciate our special relations with Canada and the fact that it was the first Western nation to recognize our independence; Canada is also conducting an active policy to help us advance our prosperity.

There will be a conference of the G-7 held in Canada, which will examine the issues of assistance to Ukraine in connection with proposals submitted by Leonid Kuchma for consideration by the Supreme Council. Incidentally, we are closely watching world reactions. Both in official circle assessments and in the mass media, one can find even such epithets as "very promising," "revolutionary," or "far-reaching."

[Karas] Thank you for the interview, Hennadiy Yosipovych. Let me ask you an "out-of-protocol" question in conclusion. You have spent a long time overseas—what nation has made the deepest impression on you?

[Udovenko] Well, I have really been to virtually all the countries in the world. I have many recollections from America, I like Warsaw very much, and Polish culture... But it seems to me that I have seen a real paradise on earth—the Hawaiian Islands.

Cabinet Adopts Resolution Covering Oil Payments

LD2510181694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1746 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers adopted on 22 October resolution No. 736 "On Payments for Natural Gas, Oil and Oil Products Supplied from the Russian Federation in the Fourth Quarter of 1994 and in 1995." The resolution envisages

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that payments for gas and oil supplied under intergovernmental agreements between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on trade and economic cooperation in 1994, as well as direct contracts, will be managed by the Ukrainian industrial financial concern, Slavutych.

Under the resolution, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations is to incorporate in the relevant draft agreement with the Russian Federation for 1995 the terms of payment by Slavutych concern for up to 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas, up to 10 metric tonnes of oil and up to three million tonnes of oil products.

The ministries of industry; machine-building, military-industrial complex and conversion; and power engineering and electrification, as well as other interested ministries are asked to ensure that contracts are signed with Slavutych concern for the purchase of natural gas delivered from the Russian Federation in the fourth quarter of 1994 and in 1995.

Enterprises run by the State Committee for Oil and Gas are asked to sign within two weeks a similar agreement on oil refining, transit, storage, and transshipment of oil products.

Gas and oil products delivered to Ukraine under agreements signed by Slavutych concern will be exempt from the value added tax during their transit through Ukraine's customs border.

An appendix to the resolution lists goods to be exported by Slavutych concern in payment for gas, oil and oil products. It includes farm produce and products of the chemical and metal industries.

Imported Russian Nuclear Fuel Described as Poor Quality

LD2510200794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine has reasons to be dissatisfied with the quality of fuel for nuclear power stations delivered from Russia, Director of the Ukrainian Department on Control over Armaments and Disarmament Konstantin Grishchenko said at a briefing in Kiev today.

He said Russia had formally carried out its obligations on delivering heat-releasing elements under the trilateral statement signed by the Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. presidents (January 1994). Grishchenko stressed that Russia was delivering nuclear fuel following the schedule.

However, he added that Russian nuclear fuel was not sufficiently power-intensive. Grishchenko said that the assortment of nuclear fuel was insufficient either.

U.S. deputy Defense Secretary Gloria Daffi told journalists at a briefing that U.S. companies had transferred to the U.S. administration several proposals on establishment of Ukrainian-U.S. joint ventures for producing fuel for nuclear power stations. She said she believed that this would help to create a closed nuclear cycle in Ukraine.

Daffi said the U.S. administration would consider the proposals within the next month and answer them.

National Affairs

Western Donbass Miners Begin Strike

WS2510142394 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 22 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriya Bondarenko: "Miners from Western Donbass Lost All Patience as the Dollar Exchange Rate Increased"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under an initiative from Ukraine's Independent Trade Union of Coal Miners, workers in 12 mines of western Donbass have gone on strike. The strike was started by 1,072 people; from among them, 477 went down into the mines, but did not start working. The miners' demands are of a purely economic nature. First: To increase wages across the board by 150 percent. Second: To implement an appropriate indexation of wages in the event of price increases. Third: To establish an income tax ratio at 10 percent of wages, and abolish the limitation on pension rates for working miners in western Donbass. Fourth: To conclude an agreement on wage rates between the Ministry of Industry and Ukraine's Independent Union of Coal Miners. According to a representative of the strike committee, as of today, the wage [timeframe not specified] of opencast miners does not exceed 2 million karbovanetses. Underground miners earn a little bit more. Obviously, one can neither live nor die in a human way on such a wage. What is even more interesting is the fact that the mines' managers have reacted to the strike without emotion. So far, they have limited their actions to persuasion and the establishing of an arbitration commission. At least both the authorities and the strikers are prone to think that the miners' problems can only be resolved through legislation, for which the Supreme Council is the competent authority.

Ministry Launches Firearms Surrender Campaign

AU2510133094 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 20 Oct 94 p 2

[Undated "Appeal by Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs to Citizens of Ukraine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Fellow Countrymen,

The operational situation in Ukraine remains extremely complicated. The availability of large amounts of firearms in the hands of the population contributes, to a certain extent, to a considerable deterioration of the situation. The very problem of the illegal spread of the firearms is a matter of great concern for Ukraine's internal services. We are extremely alarmed by the fact that considerable amounts of firearms get into the hands

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of criminals, who, with their help, commit most bold and dangerous crimes. This year alone, 823 crimes involving the use of firearms have been recorded. This is almost 30 percent higher than last year's estimate.

Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs has adopted a decision to hold a month-long campaign to encourage voluntary handing over of firearms to town and rayon departments of internal affairs or registering the weapons. The campaign will continue between 20 October and 20 November 1994.

The leadership of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs appeals to all citizens with a request to take an active part in this measure. It is hardly necessary to say that those firearms, munitions, and explosives that are illegally kept by individual citizens, present an enormous danger for the lives of both adults and, especially, children. Therefore, the most sensible and correct decision would be to register them or hand them over to the militia, in other words, to get rid of these dangerous things and help friends, relatives, and acquaintances to do the same.

We remind you that, in accordance with Article 222 of Ukraine's Criminal Code, illegal possession and maintenance of firearms is punishable by imprisonment of up to seven years. At the same time, the voluntary surrender of firearms, munitions, and explosives that were stored without a valid license absolves one from criminal responsibility.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs counts upon understanding and support for this measure, intended to ensure quiet, peace, and harmony in our state.

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Belarus

'Control Chamber' Uncovers Illegal Arms Sales

MM2510133794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belorussian Weapons Firing in 'Hot Spots'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk—Belorussia's Control Chamber has inspected the "Beltekheksport" firm, which has for two years been selling arms with the permission of and under license from the former government. An upshot is that countless financial abuses have been discovered, along with instances of "firearms" being sold to "hot spots." Belorussian Deputy Defense Minister Alyaksandr Tushinski, who stamped the arms sale documents, may find himself among the guilty parties. The insepctors deem it necessary to introduce a state monopoly on sales of arms and combat hardware and have set up a specialized state organization to this end. The outgoing cabinet gave consent to three commercial firms at once the right to conduct this trade and virtually failed to monitor their activity.

Chyhir Notes Debt to Russia, CIS Integration

LD2510175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1206 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 25 Oct—"Russia's demands that debts be met are quite fair," Belorussian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir stated at a news conference in Minsk. Summing up the results of the Moscow meeting of CIS heads of state, he noted that Russia is not in such an enviable economic position that it can afford to play the kind uncle in distributing credit to its former union republics.

As for Belorussia, Mikhail Chyhir noted that the republic could gradually pay off its debt with foreign credit. "One thing is clear," he stressed, "we need to pay promptly, especially for oil and gas despite the benevolent attitude which our neighbor has toward us."

In the Belorussian premier's opinion, the agreements signed in Moscow on setting up an interstate economic committee and a payments and customs union of CIS member states are profoundly democratic and will not encroach on the interests of any of the republics.

"I have the impression that the longer we live apart, the better we understand the need for integration," Mikhail Chyhir said.

Chyhir on Results of Moscow CIS Summit

LD2510191694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a press conference on Monday evening in Minsk, head of the Cabinet of Ministers Mikhail Chyhir expressed his opinion saying that "one should not demand immediate results from the agreement on creation of the Inter-State Economic Committee (IEC) signed by heads of CIS states." "This supranational body has no leadership yet but it must work on a permanent basis," he said. "However, having signed this document, the presidents have given their private guarantee that the agreement will function," Chyhir noted.

He expressed his conviction that the IEC would not infringe upon national interests of CIS states. In his opinion, this body will assist each republic "in testing its forces in integration process in the scale which this or that republic deems appropriate within the Inter-State Economic Committee."

Chyhir reassured that the IEC is an organization which implements control and managing functions, it will primarily be busy with transnational issues. Among them Chyhir mentioned power engineering, communications, and transport.

Chyhir noted that in the course of his meeting with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow they reached an agreement that economic cooperation between Russia and Belarus would deepen irrespective of the results of integration processes taking place within the Commonwealth.

Commenting on the proposal of Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to station the IEC headquarters in Minsk, Chyhir expressed his doubt saying that the republic "will be able to tow this burden." He pointed out that there would inevitably appear problems related to transport, communication, accommodation of the committee's employees if the IEC were located in Minsk. "Even if we allocate apartments, highly qualified specialists would hardly agree to come to Minsk," he said.

Speaking about Boris Yeltsin's' proposal to appoint Belarus' Former Premier Vyacheslav Kebich to the post of the IEC leader, the republic's Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko, who attended the press conference, said "Kebich's surname was called out of the frameworks of official discussions." In his words, the Belarussian side expressed concern that the republic's people would not understand this appointment.

The agreement on payment union signed by the heads of CIS states, is necessary for mutual accounts, Chyhir said. He called creation of an inter-state bank, the work on which was suspended due to the absence of large mutual projects, a practical move for implementing this agreement. Chyhir said that the information stating that Belarus has called off its share of authorized capital from the bank under creation as invalid.

"Of course, the bank will not work within the next half a year. But there is a need in its creation for the future," he indicated.

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Responding to journalists, Chyhir reported that during his visit to Moscow the parties did not pass any final decision on paying off Belarus' debt for Russian fuel and energy. As he said, the republic's government hopes that part of the debt would be postponed and part would be compensated by means of selling shares of the republic's enterprises; part of the debt will be paid off by credits of international financial organizations.

Trade Unions Demand Wages Equal to Labor

WS2510144194 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 20 Oct 94

[Report by Yu. Davydava and V. Vasyukevich]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ninth plenary session of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation Council was held in Minsk on 20 October. The principal issue addressed at the session concerned the trade union's activities on protecting the social rights of the working people in the new situation. In a number of fiery speeches delivered at the session, the socioeconomic situation in the Republic was deemed as extremely complicated and dramatic. Here are just a few of the figures cited: In 1994, living standards have nose-dived, the national income has decreased by 27 percent, and wages have dropped by 36 percent in comparison with prices for consumer products. An adult male is capable of only earning enough to buy bread for himself and cannot afford to support his family. As for the minimum wage, pensions, and allowances—they have become completely detached from the subsistence minimum. Moreover, as was pointed out by one of the speakers, some 80 percent of the people are currently living below the poverty level.

The situation in the job market has gravely exacerbated with the unemployment rate reaching 2 percent, while latent unemployment encompasses every fifth Belarusian citizen. The trade union's activities must be adequate to the current situation.

[Begin Trade Union Federation Chairman Uladzimir Hancharyk recording, identified by caption] As you have heard, the principal issue addressed from the podium is: How to live? We have, indeed, approached a limit, beyond which we will have to support many people, including those who have relatively decent wages. This is the nitty-gritty of the matter. That is why, quite naturally, we have held a tense discussion on the role and tasks of the trade union. In the economic field, we believe that the role of wages should be restored—instead of giving all kinds of subsidies, people should be paid wages commensurate to their labor. Of course, we should strengthen work discipline, and so on. The president cannot, however, do that alone. All of us should work together. The trade union should put forward its conditions and see to it that they are met. [end recording]

Support Russian Protest Action

MM2510142194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Support for Russians' Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Federation of Belorussia Trade Unions Council expressed support for the all-Russia collective action opposing the worsening of working people's economic position scheduled for 27 October. On behalf of the over 5 million members of Belorussia's trade unions the Federation of Belorussia Trade Unions sent a cable to the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, proclaiming solidarity with Russia's working people.

It is quite possible that Belorussia's trade unions will also hold a mass action advocating the preservation of jobs and fitting remuneration for the working man.

Moldova

Smirnov Rules Out Total Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2510135394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Transdniestrian leadership believes that Russia's 14th Army "has been and will stay", and the agreement on its pull out of Moldova will not be implemented in full, the president of the self-styled Transdniestrian Republic Igor Smirnov has declared in an interview with INTERFAX. He commented on the Russian-Moldovan agreement on army withdrawal signed at the Moscow summit on October 21. The accord provides for moving the Russian troops out of Transdniestria within three years.

Smirnov declared that "the 14th Army is not only a guarantor of peace and an element of military parity but part of our people, and to speak about withdrawal is useless. There won't be withdrawal as such. The region can only be left by (the 14th Army commander) General Lebed and a small group of officers with a flag and a seal, as he himself has said."

Smirnov explained that he had in mind above all the army personnel, 80 percent of whom are Transdniestrian nationals.

He suggested that Russian army officers would most likely stay put and continue their service as part of the Transdniestrian armed forces.

"These people will not merely go away from the region since no one can guarantee the safety of their relatives, no one can guarantee that a tragedy similar to that in Bendery will not be repeated. For Moldova has never accepted our proposal to set up a demilitarized zone," Smirnov said.

Government Notes Sharp Decline in Economy

LD2510225694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 25 Oct—The Moldovan Cabinet of Ministers noted at its session today that the economic situation has significantly worsened. According to Economics Minister Valeriu Babutsak, the first positive signs observed last year that the country was moving out of crisis have not developed. The minister believes the drought, frosts, and other natural disasters which befell the republic had a large influence on the worsening of the situation.

The session noted that the economic results for the first nine months were alarming. Virtually one-third of enterprises are ending the year with a loss. Output was down 20 percent even on the same period last year, which was far from the best. Industrial output was one-third down. The output volume for the agro- industrial industry - a basic one for Moldavia - fell by almost 30 percent and reached 1964 levels.

The total volume of capital investment was 20 percent down on last year at around 320 million leu ($80 million). A significant fall in the volume of foreign trade was registered. Exports to Western countries went down by one-third at the same time as imports from these countries were growing. The deficit in the balance of payments with foreign countries is $34 million.

As of this month funds not paid into the Republic's budget make up 30 percent of received profit. Under the pressure of a financial crisis, the Republic's budgetary system is unable to fully meet the obligations which it has taken on.

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Kazakhstan

Turkic States Conference Viewed in CIS Framework

LD2510190794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IF: According to several observers, the recent summit of Turkic-speaking states in Istanbul testifies to disappointment of the "Turkic" states wwithin the Commonwealth, to their mistrust in efficiency and prospects of this structure. Have these suppositions any grounds?

NAZARBAYEV: I primarily view this Istanbul meeting in the context of my idea to convene a Conference on measures of confidence on the Asian continent. I give priority to any meetings and regional contacts which contribute to implementation of this initiative—by the way, all participants of the Istanbul summit are participants of this Conference. This explains my participation in such regional meetings and conferences.

In my opinion, the declaration signed by six presidents in Istanbul meets regional interests of these states and primarily has an economic orientation.

The Istanbul agreements do not hinder development of mutual relations between our states and other states and associations. I'd like to remind that five of six participants of the Istanbul summit (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) are members of the Commonwealth. I am convinced that results of this summit cannot bring any damage to the commitments which we took in the framework of the conferences of heads of CIS states. On the contrary, results of this summit are able to enrich the CIS which receives an opportunity of a direct access to the European Union, League of the Arab countries, the Pacific Union, and other international alliances.

Consequently, any speculations regarding a kind of behind-the-scene maneuvers of "the Turkic republics" are inappropriate. In addition, independent states themselves build their policy and nobody has the right to instruct how to pursue it. As far as Kazakhstan is concerned, its strategic line is aimed at an equal dialogue with all neighbors in all spheres of cooperation. Kazakhstan does not accept either Pan-Turkism or Pan-Islamism.

IF: Do you think that the conclusion concerning a slight cooling of the Kazakh-Russian relations is appropriate? There are less contacts, President Boris Yeltsin's visit was postponed...

NAZARBAYEV: Such conclusions are grounded on survivals of the past when one could judge about relations between states by the number of summits. During the first years after proclamation of the republic's sovereignty we met more often because we had a certain connection. There was a common currency, the ruble. When Russia pushed Kazakhstan out of the ruble zone it appeared that we have less problems and there is no need to meet so often.

The dynamics of Russian-Kazakh relations is rather high: we signed 23 documents in March, we must prepare one more package of serious agreements by our next summit. Now the work over these documents is underway.

We primarily speak about documents related to the issues on citizenship. We'd like that Russian citizens could freely come to Kazakhstan and receive citizenship where they want. And vice versa. In addition, we are preparing a package of documents in accordance with the agreements on Baikonur. Our experts are developing these documents now.

Our relations with Russia have enjoyed and will enjoy priority in our foreign policy. This is an undisputable truth. We do not explain this by the fact that Russia is our neighbor and we are greatly integrated. This approach meets Russia's and Kazakhstan's global strategic interests. Kazakhstan is also Russia's major partner in deliveries of its raw materials and goods, as well as Russia is for Kazakhstan.

The human factor plays the major role. Today as many as 1 million Kazakhs live in Russia. Several millions Russians live in Kazakhstan. We cannot but take into consideration this factor in our mutual relations.

I believe that the task of the leaders of both countries is to search for solution of any complex problems by calm and civilized forms. A normal pulse in our relations largely depends upon a friendly and kind dialogue between our leaderships.

Nazarbayev Favors New Economic Policy

LD2510192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 25 Kazakhstan marks its 3rd anniversary. A festive meeting devoted to this date was held in Alma-Ata [Almaty] the day before, President Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the meeting.

Nazarbayev is convinced that creation of a civilized market is the single right way for Kazakhstan's development, but it is necessary to work out a new comprehensive economic policy.

To this effect Nazarbayev reported that he had set forth several priority tasks for the Cabinet of Ministers headed by Akezhan Kazhegeldin. Among them are development

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of national priorities in the economic reform, determination of concrete policy in the fiscal sphere, implementation of a tough tax reform, and real fight with corruption.

In Nazarbayev's words, Kazakhstan started implementing its own economic policy and the country's re-structuring after introducing its national currency, tenge, in November 1993. He reported that over the last time there were insufficient fluctuations in the tenge rate. Inflation rate is steadily lowering, from 46 percent at the beginning of this summer to 9.7 percent in September.

Nazarbayev believes that the 1995 budget should be "a very tough and market one in order to suppress inflation and to have 1-2 percent inflation rate by next spring. The growth of investments and industrial production will start only under this situation, we should overcome this, there is no other way out," Nazarbayev said.

The president highly appreciated results of the 40th harvest in the virgin-land which has brought more than 18 million tonnes of grain to Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev underlined that "all talks about hunger and cold in the republic are inconsistent."

Nazarbayev also asserts that Kazakhstan has solved the first problems related to its entering the world arena, namely establishing diplomatic relations and strengthening state security. Now Kazakhstan proceed to developing a widescale constructive partnership and efficient cooperation, to strengthening its positions on the global and regional levels.

Nazarbayev marked "quite noticeable results" of his visits to the United States, Turkey, Great Britain, Japan, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Saudi Arabia. According to his estimate, they will influence social-political and economic spheres of life in Kazakhstan.

According to Nazarbayev, over a year and a half the republic's economy has attracted investments amounting to about $2 billion, there have been opened 19 credit lines; there have appeared about 1500 joint ventures, the republic has concluded contracts with several foreign firms, including contracts on developing large oil and gas deposits. "There are great prospects in Kazakhstan's development," he underlined. In his prognosis, Kazakhstan intends to substantially increase its gold reserves thanks to foreign investments.

"The strive for integration is the major line in Kazakhstan's policy and economy," Nazarbayev stressed. He positively assessed decisions on creation of the Inter-State Economic Committee and payment union reached at the summit of heads of CIS states in Moscow. He believes that it is important to adopt a memorandum on principal directions of integration and cooperation.

Nazarbayev said: "All presidents pointed out that new integration initiatives set forth by Kazakhstan have pushed CIS states to signing these documents." He also indicated that these decisions implement the ideas related to creation of the Euro-Asian union. "This is not a cabinet idea, it has grown from heart of the peoples and from the need to create a truly capable association of sovereign states."

Ambassador to Moscow Views Relations

MM2610090994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 3

[Article by Tair Mansurov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation: "Russia and Kazakhstan Have a Common Future. 25 October Is Republic Day"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The Kazakhstani Supreme Council adopted a Declaration of State Sovereignty 25 October 1990. The first ever national presidential elections were also an important landmark for us. Over nine-tenths of the voters voted for N.A. Nazarbayev.

Having chosen the evolutionary path of reform, which combines democracy with discipline and collegiality with one-man command, the Kazakhstanis are building a state and public formation in oine with universal human values. Needless to say, by historical standards the time that has elapsed since the proclamation of the Declaration is negligible. But this is a dynamic period in all spheres of our state's life. [passage omitted]

The special nature of Kazakhstan's geopolitical position undoubtedly provides an opportunity for the full-fledged, autonomous development of the country's economy, politics, science, and culture. Although, undoubtedly the multiethnic composition of the population does to some extent complicate the task of imbuing our country's state sovereignty with specific content.

Economic reform is taking place amid the strained socioeconomic situation brought about by the disintegration of the former Soviet economy. But Kazakhstanis' nationwide accord provides hope of a better future.

When talking about Kazakhstani-Russian relations this does mean relations between 148 million Russians and 17 million Kazakhstanis. Regrettably the breakup of the Union sapped our economies and disrupted scientific, technical, and cultural ties. The decline in production has been under way for several years. There are of course more objective factors arising from the breakup of a vast centralized state behind this.

Of late the problem of nonpayments has been a major factor of destabilization. It is literally paralyzing enterprises. Whereas previously hustlers wore themselves out rushing around the whole Union in the quest for spare parts, now general directors are literally rushing around the CIS in droves trying to drum up cash. And, importantly, the problem is not being resolved. The work of our governments' commissions for nonpayments could do a great deal to resolve it.

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The current state of society is almost threatening but it is simply essential to escape from the vicious circle of inflation, the decline in production and the standard of living, and the growing crime and corruption. We cannot grow accustomed to these phenomena: They cannot be tolerated.

The main issue in Kazakhstani-Russian relations is to ensure normal integration. Interconnected processes are taking place in both Kazakhstan and Russia and we must resolve the problems together.

Over the many centuries that they have lived together in the vast Eurasian area, Russians and Kazakhs have accumulated a wealth of experience of neighborliness despite their different cultures, traditions, and faiths.

Now Kazakhstan and Russia are sovereign, independent states. And the fact that we are henceforth entitled to call our republic a country is a reality. The fact that the Republic of Kazakhstan has been recognized by the world community and has established diplomatic relations with over 100 countries is highly indicative.

I would like to draw attention to the plan for a Eurasian Union proposed by President N. Nazarbayev. The point is that this is no idle, academic idea. It is prompted by life itself.

The idea of a Eurasian Union has elicited the keenest of interest. Supporters are to be found in scientific circles, parliaments, government structures, and diplomatic circles....

In conclusion I want to say that Russia and Kazakhstan have a common future. The latest period in our history, characterized by the destruction of the basic foundations and a constant fighting mentality, confronts our societies with complex questions and subjects each of us to serious trials. Only confidence in the future, the insistent realization of our current potential, and a calm view of our past can provide mental harmony and a sense of joie de vivre.... No one must lose hope!

Russian Trade Unions' Day of Action Supported

LD2610094094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia has called on working people to hold an all-Russian protest action on 27 October against the further worsening of the socioeconomic conditions of the population of the republic.

The executive committee of the Council of the Federation of Kazakhstan Trade Unions has expressed fraternal feelings of solidarity and support to the Russian trade unions.

A cable sent to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia says that the Russians' just demands for the urgent resolution of vital problems of working people and their aspiration to struggle resolutely for a dignified life for working people are close and understandable for the Kazakhstan trade unions.

New Law Boosts Powers of Police

MM2510145294 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev: "An Agent of the Kazakhstan Tax Service May Secretly Enter a Taxpayer's Apartment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—A Republic of Kazakhstan law on operational-investigative activity has been adopted and promulgated. In a commentary that has been issued on this document, state counselor Kairbek Suleymenov claims that "it is spearheaded solely against the criminal element and in no way against law-abiding citizens."

The departments carrying out operational-investigative activity on Kazakhstan's territory include not only organs of internal affairs, national security, and the Defense Ministry's military intelligence service, but also organs of the Finance Ministry's tax service and the republic presidential guard service. Among the operational-investigative measures listed, there are a total of 24 types of operation, including interrogating citizens and officials, obtaining information from them, establishing overt and covert relations with citizens, using them in operational-investigative activity, infiltrating staffers into a criminal milieu, creating clandestine enterprises and organizations, etc., including "entering residential and other premises, buildings, and facilities, local land plots, and means of transport and other technical facilities, and searching them."

Thus under the new law the right to secretly enter an apartment, house, or office of a private enterprise is granted not only to a criminal investigations staffer or "state security" man, but also to a tax service agent who wants to find out about a taxpayer's real level of material prosperity.

Under the law, the citizenship, sex, nationality, place of residence, social, official, or property status, membership of social associations, attitude to religion, or political convictions of citizens are no obstacle to operational-investigative measures in relation to them, unless otherwise stipulated by law.

Article 14, Point 4 is noteworthy. Under this point, "persons to whom information on operational-investigative activity has become known as a result of carrying out their professional duties may be held accountable, under Republic of Kazakhstan legislation, for publishing such information." So it transpires that, for instance, a journalist, even a foreign journalist, who "publishes" information that has become known to him on the work of agents or the bugging of telephone conversations, may be held accountable for this.

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Bulat Bayekenov, Kazakhstan's new minister of internal affairs, a professional operations man who worked in the state security organs for more than 20 years, has called this law "long-awaited." First and foremost because now operational-investigative materials may be used in court, which will make it possible markedly to increase the effectiveness of the work of the operational special services.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Schedules Next Election in Jan 95

LD2510194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev said he would schedule the next general election for January.

Akayev told a new U.S. ambassador to the former Soviet republic, Eileen Mellow, in Bishkek on Tuesday [25 October] that he would set the date for the elections to the new bicameral legislature after consulting various political parties and movements.

Earlier on the election was tentatively planned for December 24.

The president said the United States was giving extensive support to Kyrgyzstan's economic and democratic political reforms. He pointed out U.S. assistance in developing Kyrgyz agriculture and carrying out privatization in the Central Asian republic and Washington's advice on Kyrgyzstan's planned judiciary reform.

He expressed the hope that the United States would send its observers to monitor Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary election.

Democratic Women's Party Registered in Bishkek

LD2510114394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0655 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Summary] Bishkek, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The Ministry of Justice of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] registered the Democratic Women's Party of Kirghizia today. The party has about 2,000 members and is headed by T. Shayliyeva, a people's deputy and president of the Kanykey joint stock company.

Details of Economy in 1994

LD2410164094 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYTZSTANA in Russian 13 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the first nine months of 1994 the gross domestic product (GDP) was 7,388 million soms was down by 27.5 percent in comparison with January-September, 1993. The deflator of the GDP fell to 357 per cents

Finance and Money Circulation

Further growth in profits is typical of the financial position of the republic's enterprises and organizations (excluding agricultural organizations, the state insurance committee and consumers cooperatives), which received over 746 million soms this year from January to August, which is 1.6 times higher than the volumes of the corresponding period last year.

The presence of loss-making enterprises has a negative influence on the general financial situation of sectors of the economy. There were 593 with total losses of 285 million soms as of 1 September. Losses by enterprises in the material and technical supply sphere are 43 percent of the total amount, by industrial enterprises 23 percent, and by housing and consumer services and trade 10 percent each.

Short-term credit investments in the republic's economy have increased by 838 million soms over eight months and as of 1 September they amounted to 2,275 million soms. Of these 23 percent were allocated by agricultural ministry enterprises, 14 percent by Kyrgyzenergoholding [Kyrgyz power holding], and to Kyrgyzpromtorgresursy [Ministry of industrial and trade resources], and Kyrgyzpotrebsoyuz [Kyrgyz consumer union], and eight percent by the Kyrgyz grain and foodstuff joint stock company.

Nonpayments exceeded 2,084 million soms in sectors of the economy as of 1 September 1994 having increased by 3.2 times over eight months, of which debts against suppliers' invoices increased by 9.4 times and totalled 748.8 million soms. In relation to the volume of GDP the volume of non-payments reached 34.5 percent, compared to 6.3 percent in the corresponding period last year.

Economic and financial instability adversely effects the formation of the consolidated budget which, according to the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, over nine months of 1994 was implemented with a deficit of 499 million soms, which equals 8.2 percent of the GDP. Over this period taxes, payments, and other fees totalling 1,170 million soms were contributed to the consolidated budget, 79 percent of which came from taxes. In addition, profits and credits of 221 million soms were taken from the National Bank to cover the budget deficit plus the credit of 443 million soms extended by the World Bank to cover the hard currency deficit in the budget.

The expenditure of the consolidated budget amounted to 1,669 million soms. Allocations to social and cultural needs constituted 53 percent and 15 percent was channelled to back-up the sectors of economy.

In a market economy the influx of people's money into the institutions of commercial banks considerably exceeds the deposits being made at state savings bank. As of 1 October 1994 the republic's commercial banks had attracted 55 million soms whereas the Kyrgyzelbank [Kyrgyz people's bank] attracted only 8 million soms.

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The balance of people's deposits was 109 million soms of which 39 million soms are with the Kyrgyzelbank.

Foreign Economic Activity The republic's external trade turnover with countries of the far abroad was 92.3 million dollars (excluding humanitarian aid) from January to September 1994 which was 11 per cent less than in the same period last year.

Exports were worth $63.6 million, including $25.7 million to industrially developed countries, $2.5 million to developing countries, and $35.4 million to other countries.

Over this period exports of hides, leather, wool, and cotton sharply increased in volume. The sale of ferrous metals, vehicles, tobacco, and fertilizers fell. Almost 40 percent of total exports is due to textiles and textile goods.

Imports exceeded the level of the previous period by eight percent and amounted to 28.7 million in January to September. Goods worth 11.6 million were received from industrially developed countries, worth $6.6 million from developing countries, and worth $10.5 million from other countries.

Deliveries of investment goods increased among imports: Equipment and mechanical devices by three times and electrical machinery and equipment by six times. Imports of animal and vegetable oils, sugar, and confectionery, pharmaceutical goods, and textiles, and textile goods fell.

Over nine months the balance of foreign trade was favorable amounting to $34.9 million.

Over the past year the republic has had foreign trade relations with 44 foreign countries. The principal volume of export and import transactions was made with China, Great Britain, Germany, and Turkey.

Employment

Temporary closures of enterprises worsen an already difficult unemployment situation. In August the number of workers who had gone on leave at the initiative of the management or who were working part-time rose to 90,000 or nine percent of the number of people in employment.

There is still a gap between the supply of manpower and the demand for it: In 66 percent of cases there is demand for workers, but no more than 40 percent of the unemployed are looking for a job.

The number of officially registered unemployed rose considerably to 10,200 by 1 October this year (which is 12.2 percent higher than in previous months).

The population's nominal incomes were 160 percent higher in September 1994 than in December 1993, but taking into account price rises, their real incomes fell by 3.2 percent. The actual available income in September was 115 soms per person, which is 6.6 percent lower than in December 1993.

In August the nominal average salary of workers (including members of collective farms) was 234.7 soms (the salary of workers and office workers averaged 264.4 soms), which was 1.4 percent lower than in July; the average salary was 3 percent lower in real terms.

The minimal consumer budget was 38.6 percent higher in September than in January, and real per capita income was 64.7 percent higher.

The rise in incomes and the stabilization of prices has made it possible to reduce to some extent the difference between per capita income and the minimum consumer budget. If, in the first half of 1994 the monthly average per capita income was equal to 28 percent of the minimum consumer budget, in the third quarter of 1994 this ratio was 33 percent.

Prices

The index of consumer goods prices was 166.7 percent over nine months and there has been 5.4 fold increase in services' fees, a 1.6 fold increase in prices of manufactured goods, and 1.5 fold increase in prices of foodstuffs.

In September the rate of inflation was 100.2 percent, against 101.7 percent in August.

The price of food went down by 2.1 percent.

The average cost of a basket of 19 main foodstuffs in the republic on 30 September was 133.42 soms, which is 1.3 percent higher than on 30 August.

Prices of manufactured goods went up by 3.3 percent last month.

Fees for services rose by 5.8 percent. Fees for public utilities rose by 8.8 percent. The average fees for consumer services in the republic rose by 3.5 percent.

Consumer Market

According to estimates, the volume of sales of consumer goods on flea markets and the markets where various kinds of goods are sold was 1,137,600,000 soms for the period January-September. Compared to the same period of 1993 it increased 5.3 times in actual prices, it rose by 4.8 percent in comparative prices. On the whole manufactured goods are sold on the markets (85 percent). There the population purchased about 65 percent of all clothes and knitwear, 20 percent of shoes, eight percent of fabrics, and one percent each of leather goods, detergents, and electronic goods.

The structure of sources of food supply for the people is changing. The population increasingly prefers buying goods at town markets where prices are usually lower than in the shops.

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The slump in production of the main goods produced by light industry is characterized by a fall in the manufacture of their main products. Shops on the whole are full of consumer goods made in China, Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. These goods are not in demand at the moment because of their high cost and low quality.

At the same time data from a survey shows that knitwear for children and teenagers made by Ilbirs joint stock company was in great demand at the moment, but was hardly visible on shelves in the shops. Cotton underwear for men and lingerie are currently in short supply. On the day when the survey was conducted, wool sweaters for middle-aged and elderly women were not on sale in Bishkek. The population's requirements for men's shirts made by local factories are not met. Problems of transport of goods and difficulties in mutual payments make it impossible for the shirt producing factory in Osh to supply other regions of the republic with its products. The supply of Belarusian and Moldovan coats for men and women has been discontinued because of the same difficulties.

Privatization Mistakes Discussed

LD2510142094 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA (DELOVOY CHETVERG supplement) in Russian 20 Oct 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "It Is Time to Correct Mistakes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference dedicated to the process of implementing the privatization program in Kyrgyzstan was held for representatives of the Kyrgyz and foreign mass media in the republican State Property Fund. With less than two months after his appointment in which to master his new role and sphere of activities A.Muraliyev, chairman of the fund's board, appeared before journalists along with his deputies, K.Urubayev, V.Chumakov, and K.Bakiyev.

A. Muraliyev briefly described the present situation in regard to mass privatization.

By the beginning of October more than 4,800 state-owned enterprises out of 10,000 had been privatized, that is, about half. Consumer services and trade together with public catering are among the indisputable leaders of privatization. In these areas 100 percent and 93 percent of dependent units respectively have had shares sold in them or have been sold off as collective or private property. As for the main branches of industries, the indices are rather more modest here: industry—46.5 percent, agriculture—34.5 percent, construction—38.1 percent, and transport—31.5 percent.

The speaker also described the territorial breakdown of privatization.

Today any conversation and nearly every publication, TV program, or radio broadcast mentions coupons and auctions. In all, three-quarters of the population have exchanged their special payment facilities for coupons but only one-quarter has used them—and mainly for buying their apartments.

But there will be fewer such people who have not made up their minds yet, due to the fact that coupon auctions are being held more regularly and there are auction centers in all the regional cities now. We remind you: A part of the state's holding of shares in enterprises and organizations is put up for sale at the auctions. Thus, the employees of nonproducing spheres and pensioners have an opportunity to become co-owners.

Money auctions pursue the same aim, the shares are not purchased for coupons but for soms there. So if you can afford it, you can become a co-owner of not only one but of several industries at your discretion. However, the organizers face the problem of valuing enterprises in heavy and light industries and agricultural farms and also of determining their initial price. Everything was simpler with shops, cafes,and shoemakers' booths.

There are also many complications with units in the social sphere, which have barely been touched by denationalization—only 3.5 percent of them have been privatized. Practically no foreign citizens or firms have been attracted to buy out the state's holdings of shares. The State Property Fund intends to make up for this omission. As before, the work will be carried out together with the experts of the American Organization for International Cooperation which is represented here as a contractor of the Price Waterhouse company. Financial and methodological assistance from foreign partners has turned out to be weighty.

As for miscalculations, A. Muraliyev sees their cause in the insufficient explanatory work at the initial stage and also in the process of privatization itself which has been confused and frequently unchecked. There was no clear-cut action program for the future. As a result came the skidding and delay in exchanging the special payment facilities which have not justified themselves for coupons. We have to correct the mistakes of our predecessors, the chairman of the board of the State Property fund declared, so that the process of privatization proceeds more efficiently and systematically.

The floor was then given to journalists. A SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA journalist asked whether the process of privatization has been analyzed in other CIS countries, and if it has, then how do we look in comparison and who can serve us as a guiding line?

A. Muraliyev said, "We do not have at our disposal detailed information for all the CIS countries but we are the leaders according to the economic indices among the republics of the Central Asian region. The quality indices are better in Russia in particular with the formation of the securities market. Such a market is only being set up here."

The following question from your correspondent concerned the resolutions—recently cancelled by government decision—of the board of the State Property Fund

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on delegating the rights to manage the state holding of shares in enterprises and organizations to some ministries, departments, and to their heads. There was a document where the surnames of the former heads of the industry ministry were specifically mentioned: A. Matubraimov, V. Chumakov, and A. Okunev. Since one of them, Vladimir Ivanovich Chumakov, is now at the helm of the fund and was present in the hall, it seemed appropriate for him to answer what they in the ministry did with the state holdings of shares and whether there is a guarantee that similar "delegating" will not be used in practice by the new heads of the State Property Fund.

"That was a very original resolution of the fund," V. Chumakov noted, "and we were able to fully assess its activities. You see, in essence we have still not created an efficient system for managing state holdings of shares yet. I was given 18 dependent enterprises for managing. If I worked on them properly I would have had to neglect all my other responsibilities as a first deputy minister which was practically impossible. My colleagues found themselves in a similar situation as well."

As a result a vacuum formed in managing state holdings of shares. It must be filled immediately. And the issue of setting up an institute of managers will be submitted to the next meeting of the board. Their rights, responsibilities, and volume of work will be discussed. Those people who have manager's certificates, that is, those people who have appropriate training and qualification, will be chosen. And then they will be liable to answer for the results, what dividends have been paid on the state holdings of shares. The preparation of a precise methodological basis for this work is under way.

Tajikistan

Rakhmonov Views Summit, Forthcoming Elections

LD2510192594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1829 GMT 25 Oct 94

[News conference with Supreme Council Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov in Dushanbe on 24 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rakhmonov] Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, before anything else, I want to congratulate all of you on the occasion of the UN anniversary. My congratulations to all the UN representatives who are working in the Republic of Tajikistan. The Tajik people and the chairman of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan wish to express their sincere thanks to you. [passage omitted]

I want to stress an important point, all the CIS heads unanimously accepted our proposal on extending the stay of peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan. In my opinion this is evidence of the fact that all CIS countries are very interested in the earliest possible normalization of the situation in Tajikistan and along the southern borders of the CIS. The draft memorandum and other documents and reports contain comments on future strengthening of the CIS borders. The memorandum we approved says that it is in the interest of the CIS countries to protect the security of its outer borders. [passage omitted]

During my short visit to Moscow I intended to review our present serious economic problems, first of all on providing the republic with grain, money, and fuel. We conducted useful talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Russian government chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, Roskontrakt company president Stanislav Anisimov, and a number of other Russian officials. I can say with full satisfaction that my meetings with them will bear fruit. The governing body of Russia resolutely promised us once more that we will be provided with all-round concrete and urgent assistance. I have in mind the republic's problems with shortages of bank notes, grain, and fuel.

When our government delegation had a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, together with the chief general of the Russian Federation, the respected Comrade Kolesnikov, taking into account the fact that he issued orders, his orders were resolute. He considered the present situation in Tajikistan in particular and issued instructions to send flour and food to our republic. An official delegation from Tajikistan is still there to discuss and sign a number of commercial agreements for 1995 which will happen in the next few days. A number of documents have been signed and currently we are signing an agreement in accordance with which Russia will provide Tajikistan with 700,000 tons of grain. Another agreement for delivery of 80,000 tons of mineral fertilizer for agricultural production and spare parts for agricultural machinery was also signed. We signed an important agreement where they agreed to provide farming equipment, in particular plowing tractors, the shortage of which is one of our main problems in farming.

A number of our orders are under way and by 1 November about 400 wagons of grain will enter the republic. I want to tell you, all the residents of the republic, that our people need 178,000 tons of grain and by 1 January 350,000 tons of grain will enter our republic. This is according to agreements that we have already signed, the grain that is ready to be dispatched.

So the signed agreements for food products alone are for 700,000 tons with the Russian Federation and 350,000 tons with Kazakhstan and others, totalling more than 1 million tons of food grain to be brought to our republic. Arrangements for their delivery to our republic will be sorted out by the end of this week, that is by the 1st, in order to solve this problem.

Also, in order to obtain cash, the government organs of the Russian Federation received instructions from esteemed Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin to cooperate with the representatives of the republic's bank who

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are there. We are sure that in the next few days and weeks the problem of the shortage of cash in the republic will be resolved.

During our discussions, we also talked about entering the ruble zone. Dear friends, as soon as we succeed in solving our present political problems by peaceful means, I am sure, by 1 January 1995 our problem of entering the ruble zone with the Russian Federation will be resolved in spite of interference by political forces from inside and outside our country to prevent this from happening. You heard esteemed Boris Nikolayevich's news conference, at which it was said that officials will be relieved of their positions if they stand in the way of the solution to this problem. [passage omitted]

The memorandum which we also approved says that the protection of peace and tranquillity in our countries and peace in the CIS is closely bound up with strengthening the borders between Tajikistan and Afghanistan - the southern borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Emomali Sharipovich, my question is related to the recent issue of the payments union. We know that up to now our investments could not be transferred to other republics and their money could not be transferred to ours. Now money can be transferred. Can money from other countries be used in our republic or not?

[Rakhmonov] On the basis of this agreement - yes, and this agreement should be implemented by the economic committee of the CIS which will be formed in Moscow, in the near future. The resolution of all these problems was found by this influential organization in the city of Moscow. The agreement says that currency from every state of the Commonwealth of Independent States can circulate freely in all the Commonwealth states. They can be exchanged and used in transactions.

[Radio Liberty correspondent, in Russian] I should like to know your impression of your meeting with the leaders of Moscow and Tashkent. Do they actually support the Tajik government in their intention of holding presidential elections on 6 November or do they insist on postponing it?

[Rahkmonov, in Russian] The Tajik leaders are supported not only by the heads of the CIS, the path which the present governing body has chosen is supported also by international organizations, high and low. If you mean the candidature I think that the people will decide it, the people will choose.

[INTERFAX correspondent, in Russian] Emomali Sharipovich, tell me please, how is the agreement on the cease-fire and the cessation of other hostile actions being implemented since 20 October and, if it is not being observed, do you think that could affect the holding of the elections?

[Rahkmonov, in Russian] I consider what was signed in Tehran is being fully implemented for our part, there is not a single disagreement on any of the points of the agreement which was signed. The third round of talks is developing in Islamabad, time will show the results. And I think that no provocative act now can affect the political reforms in our country. We will not wait to see what circles or groups of people want. The people cannot stand it. A population of five and half million is not 10,000, 1000 or 100. [passage omitted]

Report on Tajik Peace Talks in Islamabad

LD2610101194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a joint meeting held last night in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Islamabad the representatives of the Tajik Government and the opposition discussed the disputed issues.

Our colleague, Khameneh, reports from Islamabad:

[Khameneh] At the meeting, which was aimed at closing the gaps between the viewpoints of both sides, the sides agreed to continue their joint consultations toward overcoming the obstacles and difficulties.

The third round of Tajikistan's peace talks began last Thursday [20 October] in Islamabad. The main point of the talks so far was the method behind the activities and duties of the joint commission supervising the temporary cease-fire. The commission's task is to implement the Tehran accord.

In last night's joint meeting, [Sayed] Abdullo Nuri, leader of Tajikistan's Islamic Rebirth Party, requested that both sides continue with the talks and, by respecting each other's views, pave the way for the establishment of a national government that would enjoy public support.

Sources close to the talks assessed as very important the meeting between representatives of the government and of the opposition on the eve of discussing the chief obstacles in the peace talks.

UN sources also say that the framework of the talks today, Wednesday, is devoted to the presidential elections and the referendum on the new Constitution which is a subject of dispute.

At the end of the sixth day of talks, [Ramiro] Piriz-Ballon, the UN special envoy for Tajikistan, expressed hope that the temporary cease-fire which has been in place since last Thursday based on the Tehran meeting, will be renewed in the future.

Russian Envoy, Opposition Leader on Islamabad Talks

LD2510170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 25 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad October 25 TASS—Talks between the delegations of the Tajik Government and the opposition, which began on October 20, will be continued here today. As during the previous days, the third round of the negotiations to settle the crisis in Tajikistan are focusing on the text of a protocol to set up a joint commission of observers to monitor the implementation of the temporary ceasefire agreement. Only one article out of ten, making up the document, still remains to be decided. It deals with the supply of food, clothing, and medicines to armed opposition groups in Badakhshan during the ceasefire period. Trustworthy sources believe that Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, special representative of the U.N. secretary-general in Tajikistan, was able to approximate the positions of the two sides on Monday [24 October].

Commenting on the talks at ITAR-TASS request, the head of the opposition's delegation Agbar Turadjonzoda stressed that "there is still much mistrust" between the two sides, which came to light during the discussion of the joint commission protocol. He pointed out that "two political prisoners were put to death by the regime", although they were to be released in keeping with the Tehran ceasefire agreement. Turadjonzoda expressed the view that the exchange of political and war prisoners should be effected under United Nations not Red Cross supervision, because otherwise this process "may be dragged out for weeks".

Speaking about the government supporters' stand on the political settlement of the conflict, Turadjonzoda noted that the opposition was ready to prolong the armistice, given the fulfilment of its demand for the postponement of the elections. "The opposition will be able to take part in them only if all its terms are met," the head of the opposition delegation stressed.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshov, who is now in Islamabad at the head of a team of Russian observers at the negotiations, told ITAR-TASS that the parties to the Tajik conflict "have good chances to reach agreement" on the joint commission. The Russian observers will help reach a compromise.

"However," Chernyshov stated, "in addition to this protocol, we would like the parties to the talks to prolong the ceasefire agreement. The Tajik Government wants this. The opposition, which rejects the idea of presidential elections and the referendum on the Constitution, is faced with only one alternative: Either to resume hostilities (after November 6, or, ignoring the elections, to display good will, to continue the dialogue, and to prolong the armistice). It is obvious that a military solution of the problem is impossible. This is clear to the opposition, too. Its leaders have acknowledged this. Therefore, the dialogue will in any case have to be resumed sooner or later. There is no other way," the Russian diplomat stressed.

He noted that the opposition had no right to veto the actions of the government by "prohibiting" it to hold the elections. "The Dushanbe government is the only legitimate authority. There is no other government and it has the right to govern the country according to its plans. This is recognised by the United Nations. Nevertheless, the government gives the opposition a chance to take part in the process of Tajikistan's political and economic transformation," Chernyshov stressed. "The opposition will get this chance again in February-March 1995, when parliamentary elections will be held in Tajikistan."

Touching on Moscow's policy in Tajikistan, the deputy minister said that "Russia is constantly prodding Dushanbe to a political process of national reconciliation".

Chernyshov had talks on Monday with Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali. The latter told Pakistani journalists after the meeting that the sides had discussed a wide range of problems linked with bilateral relations and with the situations in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, and also the upcoming visit of the Pakistani prime minister to Moscow, scheduled for next month. According to the minister, "the Russian policy vis-a-vis the Kashmir problem has changed and is now more balanced and objective, which is encourages Pakistan". Asif Ali noted that Pakistan was interested in purchasing Russian military equipment and warplanes. A delegation of the Pakistani Defence Ministry is currently visiting Russia and will return to Islamabad shortly. A Russian delegation will probably pay a reply visit to Pakistan in the foreseeable future.

Russian Border Troops Fired Upon

LD2610061994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Radio Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan has informed UN military observers in Dushanbe of new provocations by rebels on the Tajik-Afghan border. The press office of the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told Khovar news agency that the 12th border post of the Khorog frontier detachment came under intensive fire from the territory of Afghanistan three times on 24 October. The border guards returned fire and destroyed the weapons positions of the fighters. The border guards did not sustain any injuries.

Military sources inform us that armed opposition groups together with Afghan mojahedin opened fire on border troops from Shugnan district of Badakhshan province of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. These provocations happened on the Afghan-Tajik border within the area under the supervision of the Afghan border commissioner, Lieutenan-Colonel (Abdulmohamad). They take their orders from General (Basiri Khaleq).

Curfew Imposed in Gorno-Badakhshan

LD2610101694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 26 Oct—Informed military sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS today that a curfew has been imposed on Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan, from 2200 on 25 October. The decision was taken by the presidium of the Gorno-Badakhshan regional council because of the sharply deteriorating crime situation in the Pamirs and constant armed clashes among various groupings. The aim is to ensure the safety of the region's inhabitants.

The military sources in Dushanbe do not make any link between the worsening situation in Gorno-Badakhshan and the presidential elections and referendum on a new constitution due on 6 November. At the same time, Khuzhakhmat Khidiraliyev [name as transliterated], the deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, told ITAR-TASS that only the presidium of the Supreme Council had the power to impose a curfew on any part of the republic, once it has informed international organizations, including the United Nations.

The curfew in Gorno-Badakhshan will run from 2200 to 0500. Davlat Bulbulshoyev, deputy head of the regional militia [police], has been appointed commandant of the curfew area. Forces of the Gorno-Badakhshan militia and security forces in the region have been placed on alert at their barracks.

Leader Warns Against Holding 6 Nov Elections

LD2510132594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1231 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cease-fire agreement between the Tajik Government and opposition will lose force and the opposition will resume hostilities if presidential elections are held on November 6, an opposition leader has declared.

The agreement was signed on September 17 in Tehran and will remain in force till the presidential elections and constitutional referendum scheduled for November 6.

The Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Renaissance Movement and the head of the opposition delegation to the inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad, Akbar Turajonzoda has told Interfax: "We consider elections illegal as 30% of the population is now outside Tajikistan. The country has no democratic institutions ensuring truly free elections. Parties and many newspapers are banned."

According to Turajonzoda, in such circumstances elections will not benefit the public in any way. A president cannot feed the people if a civil war is under way, peace will come only if agreement is reached, the opposition leader believes.

He claimed that the opposition leadership does not intend to take any posts in the Tajik government. "We are not fighting for posts, but for letting the people freely choose its future," the opposition leader stressed.

Turkmenistan

Turkey's Demirel Notes Cooperation in Speech

TA2510200694 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Turkmen President Niyazov Saparmurad hosted a dinner in honor of President Suleyman Demirel, who is in Turkmenistan on an official visit.

In his dinner speech, Demirel said that Turkmen-Turkish relations and cooperation in areas such as politics, economy, culture, as well as others have been developed to an extent that was inconceivable until three years ago. Demirel stressed that high-level contacts and visits between Turkey and Turkmenistan are continuing intensively. Demirel said Turkmenistan took important steps in pursuing necessary reforms during the three years since it gained independence, adding that Turkey has always supported and aided this country.

[Begin Demirel recording] Turkey will continue to support Turkmenistan in all areas. The relations and cooperation between Turkey and Turkmenistan will proceed in line with our peoples' wishes and interests. Turkey and Turkmenistan are two big countries in the region. For this reason, the relations and cooperation between these two countries serve regional development, prosperity, stability, and peace. Let nobody have doubts about this.

Honorable President, I was touched by the scene I witnessed today in Ashgabat. The great efforts we exerted in restructuring Ashgabat and thereby Turkmenistan are yielding fruit. I congratulate you. I congratulate our friends and the Turkmen people. You have not only mobilized the Turkmen people in restructuring and building Turkmenistan but, in addition, you have mobilized the entire world, from Argentina to Liechtenstein, to help Turkmenistan. I congratulate you for this very brave activity, which shows that you have broad horizons. [end recording]

In turn, Saparmurad said Turkey and Turkmenistan have unity of views on almost all issues. Saparmurad noted that bilateral relations are based on the principles of sincerity, trust, equality, and mutual interests.

Demirel will continue his contacts in Turkmenistan tomorrow.

President Thanks Iran for Gas Pipeline Assistance

LD2510120894 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Turkmen 13 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 12 Oct (TURKMEN PRESS)—Today the President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad [Niyazov] Turkmenbashy, received Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of oil of

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the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian minister conveyed the best regards of his country's president, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to Saparmurad Turkmenbashy and sincerely congratulated him on the third anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence.

Aqazadeh spoke briefly about the implementation of the project to transport Turkmen gas to Europe through Iranian territory. "The work is going well," the guest noted. He said that the Iranian side is sparing no efforts to complete the century's major construction on time. "The construction, which is an important step for Turkmenistan toward consolidating its economic independence is of great interest to the world," the guest stressed. The completion of the construction will enter history as the fruit of the important economic reforms of Turkmenbashy, his concern for improving the life of Turkmenistan's people, and his efforts aimed at deepening all-round international relations.

President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy expressed his great satisfaction with the growth of Turkmen-Iranian relations and said that the completion of the construction will further consolidate cooperation between the two countries. He expressed his gratitude to the Iranian specialists for their painstaking work in building the construction and wished them success in completing this mutually advantageous work.

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Armenia

Deputies Protest Incident Involving Colleagues

NC2510195394 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0823 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 10/25/94—About 50 deputies have demonstratively left the Supreme Council session yesterday, and appealed to the others to join them, "since whatever happened to five deputies in Gyumri, may repeat with anyone the other day."

Representatives of National-Democratic Union Arshak Sadoian, David Vartanian, Shavarsh Kocharian, Seyran Avagian, and Ruben Hovhannesian have left for Gyumri on October 19, to organize a meeting there. Mayor of Gyumri Misha Vartanian and an official representative of Gyumri district Andranik Kocharian allegedly commenced an action of terror by entering their room and beating the deputies.

The Supreme Council decided, by 114 votes against 4, not to include these events in Gyumri to be urgently discussed at the session. Chairman of the Supreme Council Babken Ararktsian did not allow deputy Seyran Avagian to speak immediately after voting.

Those deputies who left the session gathered in another room of the Supreme Council to discuss the situation, and declared at the same time that they believe the meeting of the parliament is finished.

Discussions on including or not including the Gyumri events in the agenda of the parliament's regular three-day session have been actively discussed. A Supreme Council Board session was held during the break, and Babken Ararktsian presented their conclusions to the parliament. Ararktsian said that the decision of the Gyumri City Council was illegal, since there was no quorum etc. The mentioned decision was presenting the situation in the opposite way, and demanding to take strict measures against provocateurs. Concerning the inclusion of the topic in the agenda of the session Ararktsian said that it is not clear who will report about this, that a coordinated decision of the Supreme Council Board is needed, etc.

Ministry Says More Weapons Being Handed In

NC2510195294 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0823 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 10/25/94—Twenty-nine machine guns, two anti-tank mines, two mortars, four "Alazan" rockets - this is an incomplete list of weaponry that was handed in to the Armavir District Interior Department by the Republican Party army commander Aram Misakian on October 21. They received this weaponry from the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] at different periods of time.

The facts of forced disarmament of illegal military units are not rare. Still, according to press service of the Ministry of Interior, there is a trend of increasing the voluntary handing in of weaponry now. This is explained by increasing trust to the Ministry of the Interior.

Azerbaijan

Report Says 3,000 People Captured in Kazakh Area

NC2510195194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0823 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily), 10/25/94—Radio of Baku reported, quoting Azeri Foreign Ministry, that the Armenian side captured 3,000 people in the Kazakh district as hostages on October 12 and 16.

Aliyev Receives Iranian Envoy, Resolves To Defend State

NC2510221594 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Akbar Nahavandian.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Rustem Zulalov] During the meeting the sides touched upon various fields of cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan and discussed problems of mutual interest.

Saying that he was in Tehran during the recent incidents, acts of terrorism, and the coup attempt in Azerbaijan, the ambassador again mentioned that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani issued a statement in connection with those incidents. He said that Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Nuri would pay an official visit to Baku soon.

Indicating that he was pleased with the meeting, Geydar Aliyev stressed that the multisided cooperation with neighboring and fraternal Iran will continue to be based on past and future ties. He noted the assistance given by Iran to the Azerbaijani people in these difficult times for our Republic. Asked during the New York talks what country provides the most assistance to the 1 million refugees in Azerbaijan, he said he mentioned Iran first. Geydar Aliyev noted that the Azerbaijani people, who gained their independence at the price of sacrifice, will brave all the difficulties and will never give up their independence.

[Aliyev] Our people will never renounce their independence. No one could obstruct their independence. No one can topple our state here. The people will not allow this. As president, I will make use of laws and will never allow this. In these difficult days we feel that our brothers, the Iranian Government, our brothers in Iran, are on our side, share our problems, and support us.

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Iran's statement in connection with the coup d'etat is very important for us. I am grateful for it. I believe that this is natural. After all we are friendly and fraternal countries and our relations will continue to develop within this framework. [end recording]

Aliyev's Meeting With U.S. Envoy Detailed

NC2510193494 Baku TURAN in English 0930 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (October 25) TURAN—Last evening President Aliyev received Richard Kauzlarich, the US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Azerbaijan.

During the meeting President Aliyev informed the US Ambassador about Moscow's meeting of the heads of the CIS-member states. Azeri President said in the course of Moscow's summit he has met with Russian Prime-Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and during their meeting they touched upon the issue concerning oil contract between Azerbaijan and the West. "Russian Prime-Minister acknowledged that Russia does not have any claims to this agreement. Russia stands for cooperation of all pri-Caspian states", President Aliyev said. He also mentioned that Russian Premier welcomed participation of Russian "Lukoil" oil company in this project.

President Aliyev said that he has also met with Armenia's President Ter-Petrosyan. The parties agreed to conduct direct meeting between representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Speaking about his meeting with Russian President Yeltsin, President Aliyev said that they discussed the problems concerning peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. "I think that the meetings were fruitful", Azeri President stressed.

Richard Kauzlarich expressed satisfaction with positive regard of Russian officials for the oil contract. He mentioned that Azerbaijan, the US and Russia participate in the oil contract as partners.

Touching upon the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Richard Kauzlarich, mentioned that this issue has been discussed during recent meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton and discussions will be continued.

The US Ambassador mentioned that the US back up the efforts of the CSCE and the Minsk Group in the Karabakh problem settlement. The US continue to support the efforts of the CSCE in creation of the international peacemaking forces for the Karabakh conflict settlement.

Richard Kauzlarich said that implementation of the oil contract and peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict will ensure peace and stability on the Transcaucasian region.

CSCE Urged To Let Russia Handle Conflict

NC2510193294 Baku TURAN in English 1020 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (October 25) TURAN—"Russia demands that the CSCE should resign its commissions in the case of the Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement", Radio Liberty reported yesterday. As was earlier reported, yesterday there was a closed session of the CSCE-member states in Vienna. The participants of the session heard the Russian variant of conflict settlement.

The head of Russian delegation, Vladimir Shustov, responding to the question of Radio Liberty's correspondent at the end of the session, said "the so-called Minsk Group, which consists of 11 CSCE-member states and was founded in 1992 for peaceful settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, never has legal status. Due to this fact, it must yield this place to Russia".

Russia thinks that after signing of permanent agreement concerning cease-fire, Russian peacemaking forces must be deployed in the region. Earlier the CSCE adopted the resolution concerning creation of multinational peacemaking forces consisting of 2,000 persons for their deployment in Nagorno-Karabakh. In this variant Russia acts as one of the participants of the peacemaking process.

Judging by all, conflict between Russia and the CSCE and its Minsk Group will intensify in the next future. One can expect that the forthcoming visit of the UN Secretary General, Butrus Ghali, to Transcaucasia will strengthen the positions of the CSCE and simultaneously will clear up the situation.

UN Envoy, Guliyev Discuss Butrus-Ghali Visit

NC2510193194 Baku TURAN in English 0930 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (October 25) TURAN—Yesterday the speaker of Azerbaijani Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, received the UN permanent representative in Azerbaijan, Mahmud al-Sa'id. He congratulated him on 50th anniversary of the UN foundation.

During the meeting Rasul Guliyev informed Mahmud al-Sa'id about political situation in Azerbaijan and the results of President Aliyev's participation in the Turkic summit in Istanbul on October 18-19 and Moscow's meeting among the heads of the CIS-member states on October 21.

The settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was also discussed during the meeting.

Mahmud al-Sa'id mentioned that the UN and its Secretary General, Butrus-Ghali, recognize Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity and stand against violent alteration of the territories of states.

During the meeting the parties unanimously agreed that if each ethnic or religious group will demand to recognize

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it as a state system, the world can be divided into pieces and this fact will create serious threat to the existence of the mankind.

Mahmud al-Sa'id informed Azerbaijani speaker about the forthcoming visit of Butrus-Ghali to Azerbaijan.

During his first visit to Azerbaijan, which will take place from October 29 to November 1, 1994, Butrus-Ghali will become acquainted with socio-political situation in Azerbaijan, the results of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and will make a speech in the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Rasul Guliyev sees the forthcoming visit of Butrus-Ghali to Azerbaijan as expression of respect to President Aliyev and interest to quick settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Guliyev Warns Parliament Coup Danger Exists

NC2510213794

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri at 1640 GMT on 25 October begins to broadcast a recorded report by Gulsefa Ahmedova on the Azerbaijani National Assembly session on 25 October.

Ahmedova says that in opening the session, Supreme Soviet Chairman Rasul Guliyev proposed including the following subjects in the agenda: additional measures on the struggle against illegally held weapons; the appeal to parliament by Arif Pashayev, who was removed from the isolation ward of the National Security Ministry; and reports by the heads of the relevant ministries on President Aliyev's decree on additional measures for the social protection of the population.

Discussing the first subject, Interior Minister Ramil Usubov says that a considerable amount of illegally held arms have been confiscated from citizens in recent years. He says this work is continuing "but, according to our information, thousands of arms, especially automatic weapons, machine guns, and pistols, are still being held by various individuals and groups. It is very important that such arms be recovered. Over 70 percent of the crimes against individuals involve firearms. Esteemed Deputies, I want to bring the following to your attention: During joint operations carried out by Interior Ministry and other law enforcement organs, the following arms were seized from various individuals and armed groups during the first nine months of this year: some 943 automatic weapons, of which 168 were seized in October; some 106 machine guns, two 80-type in nine months and 26 of the same type in October. These quantities include those arms turned in voluntarily and those seized from various criminals. Some 227 pistols were seized, 48 in October. Some 110 hunting guns were seized, 12 in October; some 25 carbines, five in October; some 92 grenade launchers, 32 in October; some 4,177 grenades, 398 in October; some 16,000 rounds of ammunition, 350 in October; some 2,316,570 bullets for automatic weapons and pistols, 1.183 million in October; and some 16 Grad launchers, two of them in October."

Admitting shortcomings in the work of the law enforcement organs, Usubov calls on parliament to discuss a bill on the voluntary return of the illegally held arms. He says the bill envisages tougher measures against those who do not voluntarily turn in their arms before 15 November in return for money.

Acting Prosecutor General Eldar Hasanov points to reluctance by the people to voluntarily turn in their arms because of "distrust of the law enforcement organs" and says that is why the financial reward has now been introduced. He says people are keeping arms, fearing for their security, and the only way to convince them to return the arms is to enhance trust in the state and law enforcement organs.

Following the deputies' proposals, Guliyev says that since 1990, approximately 60 percent of the illegally held arms have been sold outside Azerbaijan and 40 percent have remained inside Azerbaijan, that is, 20,000 pieces. He says the Interior Ministry, people, and parliament should all work to recover these arms.

Guliyev says: "Now what is the situation in Azerbaijan? I want to openly explain everything to the National Assembly, so that you know the situation in Azerbaijan. I want to explain to you how events developed following the incidents of 20 September, that is, the escape of these people from the isolation ward of the National Security Ministry, Suret Guseynov's coup attempt, and the presence of Mutalibov and others in Moscow and elsewhere before these incidents.

"I think that Alikram Hummetov...[changes thought] I believe there are four people working against the Azerbaijani State and people by betraying the country and the people: They are [former President] Ayaz Mutalibov, [former Defense Minister] Rahim Gaziyev, [Talysh rebel leader] Alikram Hummetov, and [former Prime Minister] Suret Guseynov. You should know that these four have now united. Alikram Hummetov has instructed his own comrades in arms, friends, and acquaintances. He has sent programs to them on what action to take in Azerbaijan. I will briefly tell you the program content: You should behave in such a manner as to convince the state that you are on its side but, secretly, you should work to create a Talysh-Mugan Republic, arm yourselves—and this is written clearly—, commit sedition, and prepare for a major coup d'etat. He also mentions several parties there [in Lenkoran region] with which they could cooperate. I do not want to name these parties from this podium. But I will name them soon. I could reveal their names now but before naming them let us investigate the issue. I promise to reveal their names within a week at most. That is Alikram for you.

"As for Mutalibov, he is acting with Suret Guseynov. To be precise, the appeal [to the Azerbaijani people accusing

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Geydar Aliyev and others of making personal gains from the oil deal with the West to the detriment of Azerbaijan's national interests] was not written by Suret Guseynov. It was written by Mutalibov's headquarters. This is an appeal to the Azerbaijani people. Most of you have received and read it. It is a worthless appeal. It is a criminal appeal directed against Azerbaijan's statehood, homeland, and country. These people are giving interviews and making statements on Radio Liberty and at the same time are underhandedly and secretly getting ready for an armed coup d'etat, uniting, gathering forces, and so on. This process is going on. They are working in this direction.

"Rahim Gaziyev is sending his emissaries to the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and conducting talks with the commanders of this or that battalion to ascertain who will support or oppose him. They are neither interested in the Armenian-Azerbaijani war nor the oil contract that might create changes in the Azerbaijani economy. And they are not concerned that Azerbaijan is now facing major economic reforms. Nothing interests them. They have a single purpose: to carry out the coup d'etat successfully this time around. This is the reality. I am informing you of it.

"Undoubtedly they have no strength to achieve their aim but they have some armed forces. We know that. It is the duty of the Interior Ministry to unearth these armed groups, confiscate the arms, and neutralize these armed groups. It is also the duty of the entire Azerbaijani people and all those who are pinning hopes on the future of the Azerbaijani people. This is the duty of citizenship. We must achieve this."

Guliyev goes on to criticize the leadership of the Interior Ministry for failing in organizational issues. He says: "We cannot say that our police are weak. It is the organizational work that is weak. This is evinced by the examples of Ganja and Baku." He says the struggle against illegal groups is continuing smoothly "in Ganja, not in Baku" and asks: "Why? The entire Azerbaijani leadership is in Baku. So, Mr. Usubov, your duty should have been to deal with these organizational issues and upgrade your organs' resolve." Guliyev goes on to criticize the Interior Ministry, National Security Ministry and Defense Ministry for their actions over the past few years of issuing gun licenses in return for money to over 20,000 people, none of whom work in the organs of these ministries but who are shown as if they are working in the ministries. He says measures should be taken by these ministries against such practices and the guns should be recovered.

Guliyev then reads out the bill on the struggle against illegal weapons. It says the arms should be turned in voluntarily by 15 November 1994.

Ahmedova says the National Assembly passed the bill. She adds that at its evening session, heads of relevant ministries spoke on president's decree on further measures dealing with the social protection of the population. Then an appeal by Arif Pashayev, who was taken from the isolation cell of the National Security Ministry to the National Assembly, was read out. The National Assembly looked into the appeal of Arif Fakhreddin ogly Pashayev, who is under criminal investigation in connection with the occupation of Shusha and Lachin Rayons, and guaranteed the creation of conditions for the continuation of the trial of Arif Pashayev to determine the objective facts in connection with the incident. The National Assembly proposed that Pashayev appear before the Supreme Court by 30 October.

Ahmedova concludes her report at 1717 GMT.

Former Officials Arrested; Deputy Premiers Fired

OW2610020194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1930 GMT 25 Oct 94

["Mir" television station correspondent Usniya Babayeva report; from the "Utro" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mass media reported that an investigation has determined that Muzamil Abdulayev, the Republic's former agriculture minister, participated in the of 4-5 October coup attempt, financed Suret Guseynov's armed units, and assisted his escape. Nariman Nuranov, former national security minister, had assisted the escape from prison of four persons under investigation. Both have been arrested.

Deputy Prime Ministers Asker Mamedov and Ali Takhmazov, Trade Minister Ridvan Guseynov, and (Feerus Mustafayev), president of state company for bread products were released from their duties by presidential decrees due to the serious shortcomings in their work.

Aliyev Intervention Averts Bread Crisis

MM2510141994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Oct 94 p 5

[Report by Tunzale Kasumova under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "'Bread Mutinies' Avoided"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bread problem has been the focus of universal attention in the past few days, overshadowing all other, equally burning issues.

The acute shortage of the population's basic food product and long waiting lines in state bakeries have so exacerbated the social situation in the republic that presidential intervention proved necessary. Pinning responsibility for the prevailing situation on the leaders of the relevant departments, G. Aliyev has issued an edict dismissing the ministers of agriculture, grain procurement, and trade from their posts, as well as two vice premiers. The new officials were given four days to rectify the situation. And amazingly enough, on precisely the fourth day, bread started arriving regularly in the city's bakeries.

Nevertheless, debates over the bread problem are continuing. It all boils down to one thing: Should the price of

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the grain product be deregulated, as the IMF is demanding, or should the sector continue to be subsidized? Thanks to constant "injections," the state has so far managed to keep the price of bread at one-fifth of commercial prices. Is this not the reason why bread was being sold regularly in commercial stores while the shelves were empty in state bakeries?

The idea of deregulating the prices of bread and energy sources is supported by many economists who consider the existing situation to be the reason why the economy is not progressing. However, there are also a lot of opponents of liberalization, who consider it impermissible to release prices in a situation whereby 90 percent of the population live below the poverty line. The republic's trade unions are also adhering to this stance, and they are insisting that any measures that are adopted must definitely be accompanied by indexation of the population's income.

Aliyev Announces Minimum Wage Prior to Price Hikes

LD2510134494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijan has doubled the minimum wage to 4,000 manats (less than $2). An appropriate decree by President Geydar Aliyev was announced on Monday [24 October] on local television. The decision followed a conference held at the presidential office.

According to a well-informed source in the presidential staff, this is a preventive step before the planned tripling of the prices of bread and fuel on November 1.

Government Trebles Fuel Prices

LD2510172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1504 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government in Baku has trebled wholesale fuel prices including oil and gas.

A tonne of crude minus VAT will now cost 26,000 manats (about $13.3). The price of natural gas is at 1,350 manats ($0.7) per 1,000 cubic meters and that of condensed gas plus VAT will now run at 115,620 manats ($59.3).

Gasoline and diesel fuel are also up and now stand at 300 manats ($0.15) and 150 manats ($0.07) per one liter respectively.

The government also plans to increase the cost of other oil products, electricity, heating and household gas from November 1.

President Geydar Aliyev issued a decree on Tuesday [25 October] to double the minimum wage from Tuesday. It now stands at a monthly 4,000 manats (little over $2).

Georgia

Russia Grants R20 Billion Credit in Exchange for Shares

LD2610102194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0905 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has allocated to Georgia credit worth 20 billion rubles [R] to be used to buy energy as well as spare parts for industries and transport. According to Finance Minister Davit Iakobidze, Russia agreed to issue the five-year credit on 1 November. In exchange, Georgia will give Russia shares in state enterprises—25 percent in the Tbilisi electric train repair factory and 10 percent in the Chiatura [town in western Georgia] manganese association. Georgia should start repaying the debt from 1997.

Deputies Seek Dismissal of Russian Commander

LD2510133594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several members of the Georgian parliament demanded on Tuesday [25 October] the dismissal of the commander of the Russian peacekeeping force in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone Major General Vasiliy Yakushev.

The demand was followed by the publication by PRAVDA last Friday of an interview with the general who in the opinion of the deputies made remarks directed against Georgia, in particular made it understood that he favors Abkhazia's unification with Russia.

On Tuesday Yakushev left for Tbilisi to meet the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze. According to his press service, the visit is related to the decisions made by the CIS summit in Moscow last week on the mandate of the peace-keeping force in the conflict zone.

General Denies Unification Statement

LD2510203094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Commander of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict Vasiliy Yakushev denied that he had ever made a statement that Abkhazia must enter the composition of Russia attributed to him by the PRAVDA newspaper.

"I have no authority to interfere into political issues," Yakushev told journalists after his meeting with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi today. Yakushev said Russia supported territorial integrity of Georgia and he had no right to question this.

This morning several Georgian parliamentarians demanded that Yakushev be dismissed as the Commander of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces after they had read the interview with him in PRAVDA.

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Commenting on the results of his meeting with Shevardnadze, Yakushev said he had asked Shevardnadze to tell him about the CIS summit in Moscow, in particular about whether the Russian peacekeepers in the conflict zone had been given a mandate of the CIS.

Yakushev said that after having listened to Shevardnadze he believed that the peacekeepers would have to alter something in their activities.

Speaking about the situation in the Kodori Gorge, Yakushev said the situation there was under a complete control of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces. He said five Russian servicemen had been hurt by explosions of mines there. "Fortunately, all of them are alive," he added.

Yakushev agreed that return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia was slow. He said he believed that return of refugees could be sped up if more control posts were established on the Inguri River.

Yakushev said he had information that there was no total genocide against Georgians in the Ghali Region to which refugees were returning though there had been several crimes involving murders, robbery and arsons perpetuated. He stressed that peacekeepers could not act as the police but had only to create conditions for return of refugees. "Security for refugees must be guaranteed by Abkhazia," Yakushev added.

Shevardnadze, Yakushev Discuss Peacekeeper Mandate

LD2510164194 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—On 25 October Eduard Shevardnadze received Major-General Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. The meeting discussed the Russian peacekeeping forces' mandate, in particular, extending, widening and upgrading the authority of the Russian peacekeepers.

At an improvized meeting with journalists afterwards, Yakushev praised the activity of the blue helmets in the conflict zone. He said that due to them, 10 Abkhaz, four Georgian and 14 UN observers had established there were no Georgian armed formations in the Kodori Gorge. (This problem was causing delays in the return of the refugees.)

In Yakushev's opinion it is necessary to increase the number of groups which check refugees crossing into Gali Rayon. (At present there is only one group doing this.)

Turkmenistan, Russia Cut Off Gas Supply

LD2510130694 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—An IPRINDA correspondent was told at the Sakgazi [Georgian gas] department today that gas supplies into the republic have been cut off. This happened primarily due to Georgia's debt to Turkmenistan (which according to some estimates amounts to $400 million) and secondly due to Georgia's debt to Russia for gas transit.

At present only Tbilisi is being supplied with gas; 800,000 cubic meters a day comes from the Rustavi metallurgical plant and 500,000 cubic meters a day from the Azot scientific industrial association. Both enterprises have an agreement on gas supplies in exchange for goods.

The Georgian leadership is holding talks with Russia on the resumption of gas supplies to the republic.

Georgian-Abkhaz Talks in Geneva Rescheduled

LD2510133894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Planned for October 25-27 in Geneva, another round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks on Abkhazia's political status has been re-scheduled tentatively for November 15-17, Abkhazia's Ambassador in Moscow Igor Akhba announced Tuesday.

In his words, the talks were put off on the Georgian side's request, apparently because of the arrival of the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Tbilisi on October 30.

Over 60 Percent Humanitarian Aid Said Stolen

LD2510114494 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1026 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received]—Addressing a meeting of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia has admitted that over 60 percent of humanitarian aid arriving in Georgia from abroad is being pilfered.

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Estonia

Laar Says Agreements With Russia 'Complicated'

WS2610095994 Tallinn ETA in English 1715 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, October 25—The juridical expertise of Estonian-Russian agreements on Russian troop withdrawal and social guarantees to Russian military pensioners in Estonia has taken longer than expected for the work is extremely complicated and we cannot use as many experts as we would wish, acting Prime Minister Mart Laar told a press conference on Tuesday.

Laar said that the main problem about the agreements was the fact that some points of the agreements could be interpreted in several ways. Laar said it was important that the parties to the agreements would understand the agreements in the same way. He said that to achieve this the Estonian parliament should handle the agreements according to the same time schedule as the Russian parliament does. Laar added that the government would discuss the progress of the expertise at its Thursday session.

Estonian-Russian agreements, signed by Presidents Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin on July 26 this year, according to which the last of Russian troops left Estonia by August 30 and the status of the Russian retired military who remained in Estonia was determined, brought about great discussion among politicians. Several political powers criticized the agreements severely, saying ultimate evaluation of the agreements could be achieved only after the results of the expertise were presented.

Government presented the agreements to the Ministry of Justice on September 14. The initial deadline to complete the expertise was October 5 but because of the complicated nature of the work, the Ministry asked the government to prolong the deadline till the end of October.

Tupp Urges Ratification of Baltic Battalion

LD2510212294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Estonian government decided Tuesday to send the agreement with Latvia and Lithuania on the setting up of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion to the State Assembly.

Estonian Defense Minister Enn Tupp told Interfax that the document had to be ratified because the country's legislation bans the use of Estonian troops outside Estonia and the government must have an authority to act in crisis areas outside the country.

He said that the battalion would consist of three companies, one from each country, and a service company where all the three countries will be equally represented. The battalion will be 800 men strong and prepared to act since the summer of 1996. Nordic countries, Britain, Germany and the U.S. provide financial, logistic and intellectual support.

Tupp said that the officers of the Estonian company were sharing in NATO exercises in the Netherlands where they were trained in peacekeeping duties.

Latvia

Baltics Hold Joint Military Exercises

LD2610113394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Joint exercises of the headquarters of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian armed forces are taking place on the Adazi range today and tomorrow. The aim of the exercises is to assess the security of the Baltic states and to look for ways in which their defense forces can cooperate. The exercises are commanded by Colonel Dainis Turlais, commander of the Latvian Defense Forces.

The drafting of a plan of joint events for the Baltic states' armed forces for 1995 will start in the immediate future. It will be drafted by the Estonian General Headquarters, but Latvia and Lithuania will submit their own proposals. The commanders of the Baltic states' defense forces will meet in Estonia as early as November to jointly discuss and coordinate the plan.

Finance Minister Outlines 1995 Budget

LD2510221094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Piebalgs stated at a news conference today that next year's state budget deficit is due to be approximately fifty million lats. Piebalgs said that the planned total expenditure is 940 million lats, with revenues pegged at 800 million lats. Moreover, expenditures are estimated without any reserves. The social budget, set at 270 million lats, will be apportioned next year from the state budget. Levying of social taxes and assigning of the social budget will be conducted by the Ministry of Welfare. The social budget is given a special budget status and is designated for payment of pensions, unemployment, and sick benefits. Commenting on local government budgets, Piebalgs said that in 1995 the local government budget, together with the (?compensation) fund, is planned at between 200 and 250 million lats.

Lithuania

Nuclear Plant Safety Drills Expose Shortcomings

WS2510155194 Tallinn BNS in English 1321 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Oct 25, BNS—Two-day training for possible accident sat the Ignalina

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nuclear power plant in Lithuania exposed a number of shortcomings, civil defense experts said.

As reported, different kinds of accidents were simulated at Ignalina last week to train the plant's personnel, firemen and civil defense services for emergency situations.

The leadership of the Lithuanian Civil Defense Department said the exercise revealed that some ministries and institutions concerned do not have programs of action for emergency situations. Civil defense officials also expressed doubt about the efficiency of the population warning system.

Officials indicate that a majority of problems revealed during the exercise result from the lack of finance. The plant's leadership and civil defense experts admit, for example, that there would be not enough means of transportation and fuel to evacuate people 30 kilometers from Ignalina if an accident occurs.

Brazauskas Addresses Paris UNESCO Session

LD2610091494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0655 GMT 26 Oct 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris October 26 TASS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas addressed a session of UNESCO on Tuesday, saying that Lithuania seeks to attain common goals in the development of science, progress in the sphere of environmental protection, the development of culture and the creation of a system of universal communications. The Lithuanian president pointed out that this was the way to ensure genuine democracy, guarantee human rights and prevent any kind of discrimination.

The president went on to say that strengthening ties with countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Lithuania suggested holding a regional summit to discuss problem of modern history, common problems faced by these states and prospects for common future in different spheres, including science, culture and communications.

In Brazauskas' opinion, there are no serious differences between Lithuania and its close neighbours, Latvia, Poland, Belarus and Russia. Brazauskas declared that he was convinced that bilateral and regional cooperation would make it possible to attain ultimate goals in Lithuania's European foreign policy which is aimed at integration into economic, political and defence structures.

Polish Sejm Speaker Discusses Relations

WS2610102194 Tallinn BNS in English 1813 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Oct 25, BNS—The speaker of the Polish Sejm (parliament), Jozef Oleksy, addressed the Lithuanian parliament Tuesday at the end of his three-day official visit to Lithuania.

Speaking at the parliament's morning session, Oleksy hailed the Lithuanian-Polish political treaty, which has already been ratified by both countries and is expected to come into effect in the near future. The Polish official said the accord creates favorable conditions for Poles living in Lithuania and Lithuanians in Poland to preserve their cultural traditions and protects their rights.

Oleksy said the treaty should now be "filled with specific contents." He called for closer ties between Lithuania and Poland in all fields, because there is lack of "mutual acquaintance."

Oleksy said both countries should search for unifying elements, although certain facts in the history of Lithuanian-Polish relations are treated differently in Vilnius and in Warsaw.

The Polish parliament speaker emphasized the significance of economic cooperation, which he says will bring both countries nearer to a unified Europe. Oleksy said his country seeks to join the European Union because it "symbolizes hopes for the future." He assured Lithuanian lawmakers that Poland will be an ally of the Baltic states on their road to Europe.

At a press conference after the speech, Oleksy laid special emphasis on cooperation between Lithuanian and Polish parliamentary committees. In his words, both countries must adapt their legislations to European standards in order to get integrated into European structures.

Commenting on his meetings in Lithuania, Oleksy said they focused on the work that must be done after the ratification of the political treaty. In his view, the primary tasks would be to set up a joint commission for border cooperation, as well as to prepare agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and creation of a common free trade zone.

Oleksy noted that the volume of trade between Lithuania and Poland is increasing, but not as rapidly as desired.

Discussing integration of the Baltic states into Europe, Oleksy welcomed their initiative to establish close cooperation ties with the Visegrad group, which includes Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Oleksy also commented on the problem of Russian military transit through Lithuania. The Polish official noted that military transit is a bilateral affair of Lithuania and Russia, but he also advised Lithuania to hold international consultations on the issue, including bilateral consultations with Poland.

"I don't think Lithuania will sign any agreement that would threaten its national security, even if pressured," he said.

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Discussing relations with NATO, Oleksy said Poland considers membership in the organization its strategic aim. But he added that much has to change within the alliance itself before any decisions are made.

As regards NATO's so called "limited expansion," Oleksy said Poland will oppose a direct dialog between the United States, NATO and Russia, which would put Central Europe into a shade of two blocs. The Polish parliament speaker said he understands that Lithuania would find itself in a similar situation if Poland is admitted to NATO, but he added that his country will nevertheless seek to be the first Central European country to join the alliance.

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